

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Lauren Satchwell will preach a sermon titled *Shared Abundance* using Joshua 24:1-15.

In the Anabaptist tradition, the table is a holy place. It's where we break bread, share our lives, and experience the peace of Christ. But the beauty of God's table is that it is always expanding; it is never meant for just 'me and my house.' On this World Food Day, Joshua's words remind us that our daily bread is a magnificent, shared gift. We are eating from fields we didn't plant. How can we look at our tables as a place of joyful opportunity to practice the peaceable, sharing way of Jesus?

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

Pastoral Team Annual Review



Due **this Sunday, October 18 at 5 pm**

The Vision Team is gathering congregational feedback as part of the annual review process for Pastors Kevin Chupp and Lauren Satchwell. Using [The Appreciative Way](#) approach, this process is designed to support, encourage, and strengthen our pastoral team. Please take a few moments to complete the review using [this link](#) by Sunday, October 18 at 5:00 p.m.

Shared by the Vision Team

Non-perishable Food Donations for Worship

This Sunday, October 18

World Food Day is October 16th this year. In our worship service October 18th, we will be using resources provided by Mennonite Central Committee to find inspiration in stories of resilience and innovation, and spiritual nourishment in worship. To commemorate this World Food Day, you are invited on October 18th to bring non-perishable items that will be dedicated to the Widow's Cruse during the service and then make their way to Mt. Pisgah's weekly food bank. Not sure what to bring? We've got you covered! Any of the items below would be appreciated and used by our community members:

- Canned goods: vegetables, fruit, soup, baked beans, canned meats
- Packages of rice, pasta, ramen, oatmeal, cereal, crackers
- Single-serve items such as cheese or peanut butter crackers, nuts, trail mix, granola bars, tuna, chicken
- Peanut butter
- We are also asking for donations of hygiene products, such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, lotion, deodorant, toilet paper, and period products.

Midwest Food Bank Volunteering



Thursday, October 22 from 6-8 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is October 22 from 6-8pm. MFB wants us to sign up two weeks ahead of time to facilitate their project planning, so if you think you will go, **please sign up as early as possible using [this link](#)**. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Commission.

From the Outreach Commission



Dementia Friendly Communities

Sunday, November 1 during the CE Hour

Do you know someone whose life is influenced by dementia? Most of us do. On Sunday, November 1 from 11-12:30, we have the opportunity to learn how we might be more dementia friendly as individuals and as a church. The Congregational Care Committee (CCC) is sponsoring a presentation by Kathryn Johnson, Community Liaison, East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging. She will provide us with education and ideas about what it means to be more dementia friendly. Following her presentation the CCC invites you to a light meal and a brief discussion in the Fellowship Area. This follow-up time will be an opportunity for you to talk about your experience in supporting folks affected by dementia, and make plans to assist MCN in becoming more dementia friendly.

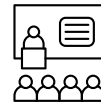
Fall Sausage Sale



Sign-Up Ends: November 1
Pick Up: November 22

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is having a fall sausage sale! One pound bulk and one pound link packages of fresh sausage is for sale for \$6.50 per pound. Pre-orders will be taken from October 4 through November 1 via a sign-up sheet in the atrium. If you wish to extend the invite to order for those outside of church, folks can order [here](#). We will have the sausage ready for pick up on Sunday, November 22. Payment will be due at the time of pick up if not paid when pre-ordered. Save the date and remember in prayer our 69th Illinois Relief Sale, scheduled for March 19 – 20, 2027. It's not too early to procure auction items!

Save the Date



Sunday, November 15 at 1 pm

The annual Spending Plan Hearing will be on Sunday, November 15 at 1 pm following a congregational meal. More details to come.

Shared by the Administration Commission



Feed JMYF Kids!

Our youth group has regularly scheduled luncheons from now until April and we need courageous cooks to feed them. Would you consider planning, donating, and preparing a meal for 12-15 for one of the following Sundays: November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14 or April 11? If so, please fill out [this Sign-Up](#) for your date and planned meal.

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Oral History Interviews





Outreach Commission Updates

The Outreach Commission met on Monday, and among other things, we committed to offering financial support to some of our organizations in need:

- \$500 to Mennonite Action to support their important ongoing work. You can join us in giving [here](#).
- \$500 to Menno Haven Camp in response to their recent letter describing their need. They rely on donations for 15-20% of their budget. You can give [here](#).
- \$250 to Anabaptist Disabilities Network for their Fall fundraiser. You can give to that [here](#).

Shared by the Outreach Commission.



CDC Connector

The newest edition of Central District Conference's monthly Connector publication is now available to read [here](#). The October issue of the Connector is full of great stories from around the conference and beyond. North Danvers, a mother church of CDC in Illinois, recently celebrated their 175th anniversary, and we hear about Doug Kaufman's new role as Anabaptist Outreach Specialist at Faith in Place. Amy Yoder McGloughlin, conference minister of Allegany Conference, reflects on what it means to be a Mennonite, and we survey the Rise Up! Take Courage! worship series. If you would like a paper copy, they will be available to take from the Library Table soon.

"What I Want my Kids to Know about AI"

Amy recently had the opportunity to attend a News Literacy Conference in Salt Lake City where several sessions addressed AI and its impact on student learning. One session shared this parent-guide, [What I Want my Kids to Know about AI](#), from the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security. If you are looking for talking points and other ideas for addressing AI with your teen and pre-teen, this guide is a good place to start.

Shared by your MCN librarians: Barry and Amy.

Pictures from the 50th Celebration

If you took pictures during the weekend, we'd love to share them and save them for the next 50 years! Please email them to church@normalmennonite.org.

With your generous support we raised the most funds ever. We received donations of \$2,045. We spent enough to do 301 school kits. We had funds of \$285 remaining to send to MCC to help with other School Kit costs. Their goal was over 30,000 and they exceeded it by 10,000 to make 40,000 school kits. Thanks to the women who sewed the bags, the youth & adults who helped assemble the kits & Loren Moshier who supplied boxes to pack them in.

Shared by the Louise & Deanna

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 14

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)
7:30 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Thursday, October 15

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
1:00 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)
2:00 pm Worship Commission (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 20

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 21

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



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

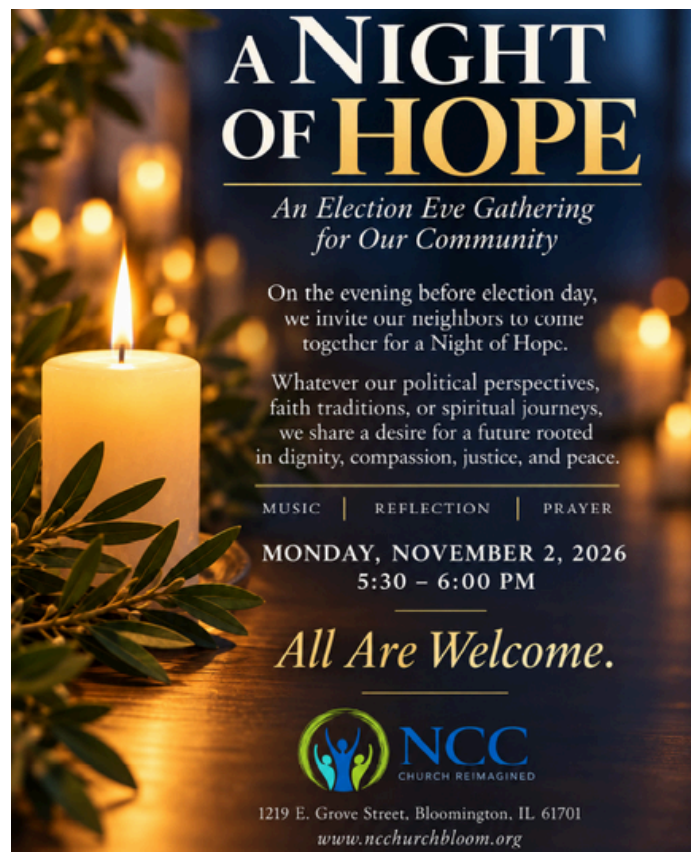
Prayer Requests and Announcements

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.



Those Serving This Week





All In Project at ADN is Creating More Inclusive Worship

Anabaptist Disabilities Network has recently released a [video](#) showcasing the work of All In: Immersive Worship for Everybody, a project funded through the Lilly Endowment. This spring, 19 Anabaptist congregations began a five-year journey, exploring how to bring accessible, intergenerational worship to their congregations. Through the stories and experiences of project participants and leaders, the video offers a glimpse into why this work matters both for individual participants and for the church, envisioning what is possible when congregations intentionally consider what it means to worship as one. For many of our participants, the work of this project is deeply personal. They know firsthand what it is like to be excluded or to have a loved one who has been excluded from worship. This project is an opportunity for them to create communities of belonging not just for their own congregations, but for congregations in the future who benefit from the insights and resources that are generated. "That's our hope with All In," said Keli Boyer, All In Project Director, "that the work we begin here will continue beyond these 19 congregations and help create communities of belonging in churches all across the country, where everyone's gifts, and presence are both realized and welcomed." The video offers a glimpse into the stories of these participants and their hope for the church at large through the work of All In. Jeanne Davies, Executive Director of Anabaptist Disabilities Network said, "We're thrilled to be on this journey together learning how to create worship services that include people of all ages and abilities. Every time we hear another great story about worship coming from one of our All In congregations, we celebrate, we learn, and we are encouraged." **Click [here](#) to watch the video and hear directly from All In participants and leaders and learn more about our collaborative journey toward worship that is both accessible and for all ages.** Want to learn more about accessible worship for all ages for your congregation? Click [here](#) for some resources to get started.

Truth before reconciliation

Four stories for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

For September 30, when Canada commemorates the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Mennonite Central Committee shared some stories that show the ripple effect of the genocidal policies of our churches and governments and the strength of Indigenous partners who are working hard to rebuild. Some stories also lead us to reflect and ask some hard questions. Plus! A teaser for a future story that explores one of the most alarming signs that colonialism is not just a thing of the past. **Read the rest of Ken Ogasawara's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

Patience is more than waiting

Once, during a college summer studying in Latin America, I became so impatient that the buses on the route I needed were packed full that I hopped on a bus heading in the opposite direction. It was the right route, and I reasoned that the bus would loop around and that I, with my big brain, would eventually have choice of seats. How long could it take? And, anyway, I would get to see a new part of the city. As the passengers thinned out, I realized just where my lack of patience had taken me. The bus came to the end of the line in a working-class neighborhood. The driver twisted in his seat, gave me a quizzical look and stepped off to get his supper. While this Christian patience has a time factor, it takes us beyond mere waiting. The patience James commends four times across two verses is anchored in Christ. It gives us hope for the future and opens the way for perseverance in suffering. God's been schooling me in patience. These last few years have been a master class. I think I've grown a little. Maybe give it some time and check back later. **Read the rest of Brad Roth's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

Want to organize an action?

Mennonite Action, a grassroots group organizing against Israel's war on Gaza (and recently against Immigration and Customs Enforcement's oppression of immigrants), emerged on the scene in late 2023 and has grown in its influence among Anabaptists. This book provides a thorough guide to its work and how to get involved. The preface describes the purpose: "We see this resource as one that will inform the greater community about the work of Mennonite Action and motivate inactive Anabaptists to engage collectively in the work given to us by our confessions of faith." The book's organization shows its appeal to two audiences: those "inactive" Anabaptists who may be interested in being more active and those already committed to action who need guidance for organizing. The book is divided into these parts: a study guide, an organizing guide and appendices. Timothy Seidel's conclusion offers a helpful perspective. The journey toward justice is long and ultimately to be guided by God's Spirit. He writes: "Our outward-facing public action is at the same time an inward-facing act of collective formation. It is an opportunity to encourage, strengthen and form us into a people steadfast and seeking to live out our faith through public action." Much of Mennonite Action's action involves worship and song. It is clearly based on a faith commitment to the God who is "steadfast Love from whom there is nothing that can separate us." **Read the rest of Gordon Houser's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

The gift and treasure that school kits bring

After years of war, the notebooks, pens and pencils in MCC school kits bring a sense of possibility to students and families in Ukraine.

Even in the midst of war, the beginning of September is a special time for thousands of children and families across Ukraine. MCC staff with our Ukraine program share that traditionally, Sept. 1 marks the first day of school. It is a time when students in communities across the country would dress in special outfits and head to class, ready to start a new year. Today, whether children attend school in person or need to study online because of the disruptions of war, that sense of a new beginning remains strong. The chances to be in school — and for students to have the school supplies they need through MCC school kits — bring a welcome sense of normalcy for children and youth and their families. We give thanks for all who help to make that possible!

View photos and read the rest of David Driver's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).

Walking with hope: Seeing God at work along the way

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Marco Güete reflects on walking the Camino de Santiago with his wife, Sandra, and the hope he sees in God's work through Hispanic Ministries, theological education and a new generation of Hispanic pastors and church leaders. **Read Marco Güete's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**

A recipe from Vietnam

Sharing a recipe and story from MCC service in the 1970s.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the beloved *More-with-Less* cookbook, Pat Hostetter Martin of Harrisonburg, Virginia, shares a recipe – and the powerful story behind it. Pat learned to make Cabbage and Pork Salad from Tran thi Kim Trinh, a young refugee who came to live with her family in 1974 as they served with MCC in Quảng Ngãi in central Vietnam. **Watch the video from Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**



Items for the Midweek

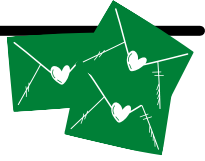


Please send items to be included in the Midweek to the [Church Office](#) no later than **8am on Wednesday**. Thank you!

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