

# ***THE MIDWEEK***



## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM**

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Nathan for You* using 2 Samuel 12:1-9.

David, in difficult moments, claims to have heard directly from God. And yet, in the midst of a major moral disaster, he needs an outsider to come speak to him on God's behalf. Even Nathan, with his thinly-veiled parable only gets through to him by explaining "You are the man!" What keeps us from seeing our own moral failures? Who are the Nathans among us?

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 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
*Room 11*

5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
*Room 8*

9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
*Rooms 5 & 7*



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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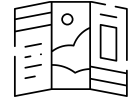
## Thursday, October 22 from 6-8 pm

Our next volunteer night at Midwest Food Bank (MFB) is October 22 from 6-8pm. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Commission.

*From the Outreach Commission*

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## 50th Anniversary Displays



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### Last Chance: this Sunday, October 25

If you haven't had a chance to check out the 50th Anniversary displays yet, they will be up one last time on Sunday, October 25th.



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## Dementia Friendly Communities

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### 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.

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## Fall Sausage Sale



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### 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 69<sup>th</sup> Illinois Relief Sale, scheduled for March 19 – 20, 2027. It's not too early to procure auction items!



## Alternative Gift Fair

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### Sundays, November 15 & 22

The Alternative Gift Fair is soon upon us! Shopping days will be November 15 and 22. In order to highlight the fair we would like to have 6-7 display booths showcasing individual projects on display beginning November 8 - in 2 1/2 weeks. MCC gift catalogs are available in the church library to choose a project from. If you are willing to make a booth please let Mark know which project you will highlight.

*Shared by the Outreach Commission*

## 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!

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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*

## Pictures from the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

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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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org).

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 are now available to take from the Library Table.**



## This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

### Wednesday, October 21

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**1:00 pm** Quilting

### Thursday, October 22

**7:00 am** Next Man Bible Study

**9:30 am** Women's Bible Study

**6:00 pm** Midwest Food Bank Volunteering

### Tuesday, October 27

**3:00 pm** Pastoral Team (Zoom)

### Wednesday, October 28

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morning Book Group

**1:00 pm** Quilting



## Those Serving This Week



## 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](mailto: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



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MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AT CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2026



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



## Canada is re-arming

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*What does this mean for people of God's peace?*

Sixty-three billion dollars. This is the amount that Canada will pour into our military and the Department of Defence in 2025-26 alone. And the goal is to more than double that number again within a few years. "It's been a tidal shift," says Project Ploughshares senior researcher Kelsey Gallagher. "We're seeing things that you and I have not seen in our lifetimes." Project Ploughshares – started by former MCC service worker Ernie Regher and Murray Thompson – has been conducting rigorous research and policy analysis on militarism and disarmament for fifty years. Gallagher's portfolio is the arms trade, so Canada's historic increase in military spending is of professional interest – and deep concern. **Watch the video and read the rest of Ken Ogasawara's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee [here](#).**

# Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Training

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**When: November 21, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: The Welcoming Place, Akron, Pennsylvania**

**Cost: \$40 (includes lunch and educational materials)**

Mennonite Central Committee and the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) invite supporters to learn about the history of colonization and how colonial structures perpetuate systemic oppression and inequality today. On November 21, MCC will host a day-long in-person Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery training in Akron, Pennsylvania. The training will include a variety of activities: a circle process, the experiential exercise Loss of Turtle Island, and biblical reflection. **Click [here](#) to register.** Participants will:

- Gain deeper awareness of the historic and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island
- Explore biblical foundations for Indigenous rights and self-determination
- Examine how they can move toward right relations through personal reflection and group activities
- Explore pathways for continued education personally and with their church community

*Shared by MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries*

## What the Martyrs Mirror knows about public executions

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On Oct. 8, the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, announced that the firing-squad execution of Nidal Hasan will be livestreamed for public viewing. "People need to understand that there's serious consequences for these types of things," he said. A week later, President Trump backed away from the broadcast: "Many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device." The last fully public execution in the U.S. was in 1936. As a Mennonite professor, my first reaction was visual. Anyone who has opened Thielemann van Braght's *Martyrs Mirror* (1660) remembers Jan Luyken's etchings: Anabaptists bound to stakes, drowned in rivers or led to the scaffold with iron screws clamping their tongues so they could not sing to the crowd. For centuries our community has read these stories from the martyr's side of the ledger, asking what faithfulness looks like when the sword falls. But if we turn the picture around to look at the magistrate holding the sword, a deeper question emerges: Why did the authorities feel such urgency to kill heretics in public? The 16th-century magistrate acted out of fear to hold back impending wrath. Reconstructionists act out of confidence: Public execution is not a defense but an offensive down payment on building God's kingdom on Earth, preparing a cadre to step into the vacuum of inevitable secular collapse. If our tradition has anything to offer, it is the insight that purity achieved by violence is an idol. It cannot be argued out of itself, because every objection is digested as confirmation. It can only be refused, publicly and without panic, by people who will not stand in the crowd and call the spectacle justice. Five centuries later, those images still have something to teach us. We should look at them carefully before deciding that we have left their world behind. **Read the rest of Arnold Neufeldt-Fast's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

# What Caregiving and Disability Can Teach Us about the Kingdom of God

**Wednesday October 28 at 10 am Central on Zoom**

Join the Anabaptist Disabilities Network for a conversation with John van Sloten about his recently-released book, *Thy Tender Care*. In this intimate portrait of parenthood, a driven father discovers the life-transforming presence of God through his relationship with his son Edward, a young man with Down syndrome who is also nonverbal. Much like the parables Jesus told, their shared moments become windows into a deeper reality where weakness becomes strength, difference brings life, and love speaks clearly even when there are no words. John van Sloten is a writer, teacher, and community theologian. He is the author of several books: *The Day Metallica Came to Church* looks for glimpses of God in pop culture; *Every Job a Parable* listens for God's words at work; and *God Speaks Science* unpacks God's revelation through the physical creation. NOTE: If you register and do not receive a confirmation email from Zoom, please check your spam folder. **Click [here](#) to register.**

*Shared by the Anabaptist Disabilities Network*



*“... bringing our own stories, cultures, and gifts.”*

Mennonite Men has a long history of carrying out its mission and ministry in Canada and the US, as well as having board members and leadership from both countries. Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) is also a binational organization and has Canadian faculty and staff members as well as those based in the United States. One such Canadian staff member at AMBS is Yoel Masyawong who serves as Development Associate for Canada. Yoel also is a pastor in Ontario, the Regional Minister for Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC), a husband, and a father. I have had the pleasure to meet with Yoel recently to get to know him as a fellow brother in Christ and learn about his ministry as well as his life in Canada. In talking with him I learned that he and diverse group of other Canadian pastors recently embarked on a five-day wilderness canoe trip together. I wanted to learn more. **Read the rest of Jon Zirkle's blog post for Mennonite Men [here](#).**

## EMU president, evangelist dies at 97

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*Preaching an active gospel, Augsburgers made ecumenical impact.*

Myron S. Augsburg, college president, evangelist, theologian, pastor and author, recognized nationally for his ecumenical influence and passion for gospel-centered peacemaking, died Oct. 15 at the age of 97. Appointed to the presidency of Eastern Mennonite College (now University) at the age of 35, he led EMU's growth as a liberal arts college and seminary beyond the previous limits of Mennonite Church cultural traditions. During his presidency, from 1965 to 1980, EMU built the Suter Science Center and Hartzler Library and expanded its programs in the arts, introducing musical instruments and theater, athletics and international study. His influence extended to the classroom, where as a professor of theology from 1963 to 1980 he shaped generations of students, pastors and church leaders. **Read the rest of the *Anabaptist World* article [here](#).**

## Leaders set three priorities for Reimagining MC USA

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Mennonite Church USA leaders identified three priorities to guide the next two years of the Reimagining MC USA process: equipping congregations for change, strengthening a united peace witness and building a more connected church. Board members and senior leaders from the [MC USA Executive Board](#), [Mennonite Mission Network](#) and [MennoMedia](#) gathered near Philadelphia on Oct. 8, 2026, for a daylong workshop led by MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton. Their discussion focused on how to turn the broader Reimagining MC USA for 2040 vision into practical next steps:

- **Equip** congregations: Build a system for local congregations and area conferences that allows them to better navigate a changing world, from economic pressures to new technology.
- Sustain a **united** peace witness: Support a meaningful peace and justice witness by building on the work congregations are already doing locally and connecting those efforts into a clearer, united voice for MC USA.
- Find new ways to **connect**: Create a digital system and resources to strengthen internal connections and provide more ways for others to discover MC USA and learn about its good work.

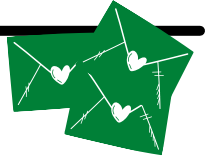
**Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's article [here](#).**



# 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

### Building Open:

### **Standard Hours:**

Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM & 1:30PM-3PM

**Pastor Kevin designated office hours:** Wednesdays, 8am-12pm  
(or call to plan a visit)

### Lydia Hedberg:

Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org); 309-452-6622

### Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

### Kevin Chupp:

Pastor for Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission,  
Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission;  
[kevin@normalmennonite.org](mailto:kevin@normalmennonite.org)

### Lauren Satchwell:

Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission,  
Discipling Commission, & Vision Team;  
[lauren@normalmennonite.org](mailto: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!