

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Approachable Wisdom* using 1 Kings 3:4-9, 16-28.

In a dream, Solomon asks God for wisdom to lead God's people. What follows is a strange anecdote about a baby and its disputed mother. Solomon's solution leaves people awestruck. *What do we make of this story? What is the wisdom that Solomon displays here? How might our own search for wisdom be formed by this story?*

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



Dementia Friendly Communities

This Sunday, November 1 during the CE Hour

Do you know someone whose life is impacted 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 and the Community Life Commission invite 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. *Others from different faith experiences have been invited. Please wear your name tags to the event.*

Fall Sausage Sale



Sign-Up Ends: This Sunday, 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!



Alternative Gift Fair

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



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

Spending Plan 2027



Sunday, November 15 at 1 pm

Please take some time to review the 2027 Spending Plan before the hearing on November 15th. The intention of sending it out early before the hearing is to give people time to ask any questions you might have before the day of the hearing.

This year, there is both a standard version and a narrative version of the 2027 Spending Plan. Please note that only the Narrative Spending Plan will be presented on November 15, so please be sure to ask any questions about individual line items in the standard version ahead of time.

- You can view the proposed 2027 Spending Plan [here](#).
- You can view the Narrative Spending Plan version for 2027 [here](#).

Members of the Administration Commission will be available after worship this Sunday, November 1 and next Sunday, November 8. You are also welcome to reach out to Mary by email.

Shared by the Administration Commission: Mary (chair), Heath, Cindy, and Lauren (pastor)



Congregational Meal

Sunday, November 15 at 12 pm

The Fellowship Committee is planning a potluck for the November 15 meeting. We have divided people by last name to bring the following:

- A-H Sides or Salads
- I-P Desserts
- Q-Z Main dish

Please bring enough to feed 8 people, and as always, if you don't like your assigned dish, feel free to trade with someone else. We choose to do potlucks so people will not have to sign up. Thank you for your participation.

Shared by the Fellowship Committee

Successful appeal clears the way for MC USA to again seek protection for churches in "sensitive locations" lawsuit

Mennonite Church USA and its 26 co-plaintiffs won an important ruling on Oct. 20, 2026, putting them on the path toward injunctive relief in the "sensitive locations" lawsuit, [Mennonite Church USA et al., v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al.](#) In a 2-1 decision, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Washington, D.C., agreed that MC USA and its co-plaintiffs face a real and immediate risk of immigration enforcement at or near their places of worship as a result of the January 2025 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) memo rescinding the sensitive locations policy. In her Opinion for the Court, Circuit Judge Florence Y. Pan wrote, "Plaintiffs' members likely face imminent harm from increased enforcement at their houses of worship; that harm is traceable to the new enforcement policy; and the relief requested will likely redress their injury, at least in part." She also pointed out that the "plaintiffs have direct evidence that the government intends to increase immigration enforcement at sensitive locations – that is the whole point of the Recission Memo." This ruling overturned an April 2025 decision by a lower federal district court in Washington, D.C., which found that the risk was not clear enough to justify court action. **Read more from Mennonite Church USA [here](#).**



Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN





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





A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 28

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Thursday, October 29

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Sunday, November 1

11:00 am Dementia Friendly Communities Presentation

Tuesday, November 3

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 4

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting



TransMission: A Public Q&A Event

Thursday, November 5 at 7 pm

Bloomington Public Library, Community Room 3

You may have heard about trans people online or in the news, or you may not know very much about trans people at all! If you want to learn more about what trans people are really like, TransMission is the place where you can ask questions and learn more about trans people in a safe, judgement-free environment. TransMission will start with a short topical discussion between our panelists, followed by a Q&A session with questions submitted by audience members. All earnest questions will be considered! Clunky language and basic questions are fine (that's why you're here, after all!), but questions are expected to be in good faith; antagonistic remarks will be filtered out.

Learn more [here](#).

Sponsored by Prairie Pride Coalition; Gender Euphoria; ISU Queer Coalition; Twin City Transfems

Martyrs Mirror and More-with-Less

What is a Granola Mennonite? In dozens of mildly annoying internet memes, I've suggested a Granola Mennonite is a person who reuses twist-ties and plastic bags, names their backyard chickens, bakes granola with organic oats and attends a protest or home-cans peaches on a first date. But how is a Granola Mennonite different from any barefoot, ecologically-and-politically-tuned-in hippie type? An Anabaptist youth informed by Martyrs Mirror taught me that faith is material, a place where bodies may be given up for suffering — not just a Christ on his cross up front, as other churches had it, but where any member of the body of believers should be prepared to die as a testament to their faith. This lent a fervor to any material act of faith, a conviction that whatever you give, however much work you may put in or how simply you live, it is only a small portion of what you could be giving or giving up. **Read the rest of Kirsten Eve Beachy's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

What was allowed in Gaza will be allowed anywhere

Thursday, October 29 at 7 pm CT

Israel's Finance Minister has said he wants the current siege on Hebron, in the West Bank, to run "exactly like in Gaza." He makes plain what has always been clear: the world's failure to stop the genocide in Gaza leaves the entire world vulnerable to the violent destruction of the powerful, with the West Bank next in line. The script of settler-colonialism unfolding in Hebron over the past several days is nothing new. Israel uses any form of resistance as an excuse for collective punishment. That collective punishment entails the displacement of Palestinians from their homes, effectively rewarding violent Israeli settlers with ever growing lands and continuing Israel's program of ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their lands. In the past week since Hebron and the surrounding area have been under siege, 500 Palestinian homes have been raided and searched and more than 3,000 Palestinians have been violently evicted. Our friends at Community Peacemaker Teams shared an update on what they're witnessing in Hebron/al-Khalil. We recommend you take a moment to [read the post here](#) to get a better sense of Israel's current operation. As a community, it's important we don't look away from these escalations, and commit to holding our grief, prayer, and work together. *P.S.-- [join our mass call](#) this Thursday, October 29th 7 pm CT for more updates on how the olive harvest season is unfolding in the West Bank, and our work as Mennonite Action.*

Shared by Mennonite Action

Virtual Peace Workshop

Saturday, November 14 at 12 pm CT

Around the world we are seeing a resurgence of authoritarian governments. While our communities face violence, we are also seeing a resurgence of people getting organized and taking to the streets in protest. It is inspiring to see thousands demanding peace and justice. Many people are going to protests for the first time and many others want to join but may feel nervous. If you want to join a protest but feel anxious because this is a new experience, this workshop is for you! On 14 November 2026, Community Peacemaker Teams will host an online workshop: "Let's Hit the Streets!" Drawing upon our four decades of global experience, this workshop will cover tips on participating in a protest, including preparing yourself for various scenarios that may arise. We will cover protest anatomy, affinity groups, and common organizing structures. We will also share tips on what to wear and tackle themes of what to do when protests face state repression. Through this skill building, we will provide participants with opportunities to deep dive on their core values and the tensions that arise when protesting in diverse communities. This training also centers sustainability. We'll talk about self-care as a political practice: preparing ourselves before actions, regulating stress in the moment, and tending to our bodies and spirits afterward. Movements burn out when people are treated as expendable – this space is about resisting that narrative. This is an interactive training, and active participation is key to learning and retaining the skills. If possible, we ask that your camera is turned on during the training. The suggested donation is \$50. We don't believe essential skills should have a price tag. Donate what you can. If you can't pay, [drop us an email](#) and come anyway. **Register [here](#).**

Shared by Community Peacemaker Teams

How to love an empire

An immigrant's conflicted affection for his adopted home.

The concert hall lit up, the curtain lifted and the martial strains of “The Star-Spangled Banner” filled the room. The audience, including me, rose as one. It was the first performance by foreign musicians at this venue after the 9/11 terror attacks. The Scandinavian brass ensemble deviated from its announced program to offer a surprise gift to the American audience. It was the first time I stood for the national anthem without hesitation. Something inside me lifted me off the chair. I was deeply moved, even consoled. I am a grandson of a medic in the Japanese Imperial Army, sent to Manchuria close to the end of World War II. Years after his death, I still cannot imagine how such a quiet fisherman could serve in a war zone. My grandfather never told us about his war experience, but some of my older schoolteachers did. The girls knit padded headgear from old blankets to wear inside the bomb shelters. The older boys took their younger siblings’ hands and ran for their lives from the incendiary bombs dropped by American aircraft. Those were my first images of war. The 9/11 terror attacks were the closest thing I have witnessed to my familiar definition of war: people buried under the rubble, ordinary citizens screaming for help, all right here on our soil. I am still a pacifist. But on that day 25 years ago, many of my progressive allies lost me. They denounced American foreign policy, and I agreed with them. But their inability to acknowledge their fellow Americans’ emotional distress — even momentarily, as if such a gesture would make them the empire’s co-conspirators — astounded me. In every empire there are people who elude the ruling power’s control. My disillusionment with the United States over its history of slavery was tempered by the testimonies of abolitionists and civil rights leaders. My skepticism toward Christianity due to American churches’ complicity in militarism was eased when I learned about the historic peace churches. Pointing out America’s positive traits does not conceal its blemishes. It does, however, recognize the fruits of the Good News in the resilience of people who have demonstrated that “love is stronger than death and that the evils of hatred, destruction, exploitation and oppression can only be overcome by the power of love that comes from God,” as Gustavo Gutierrez writes in *We Drink from Our Own Wells*. **Read the rest of Shuji Moriichi’s article published by the Anabaptist World [here](#).**

Mennonite Biblical Studies continue, rain or shine

Mthatha, Eastern Cape – Even as chilly rains swept across the Eastern Cape and much of South Africa, 19 dedicated students made their way to class, demonstrating a hunger for God’s Word that no weather could dampen. Bishop Reuben Mgodeli, Coordinator of the [Mennonite Biblical Studies](#) (MBS) program, shared this encouraging update after a fruitful day of teaching. MBS offers affordable, nonresidential, indigenous language, biblical education and leadership training and conducts quarterly Bible conferences in five locations within the former Transkei. Despite the cold and wet conditions, the students’ commitment remained strong as Mgodeli led three meaningful lessons: the Book of Revelation, church administration, and Biblical studies. These sessions are part of the ongoing MBS training designed to equip pastors, church leaders, and believers with solid biblical foundations for life and ministry. Please keep the students, teachers, and traveling participants in your prayers as they continue to pursue growth in Christ together. **Read Bishop Reuben Mgodeli’s blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

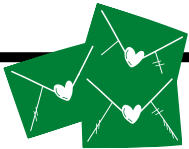
MCC 'Seek Peace' poster contest

Mennonite Central Committee invites participants of all ages to design a poster interpreting the theme "Seek peace" through one of three scripture verses. The purpose of the contest is to motivate our communities to continue to strive for peace and to have hope in the daily actions each person can take to make their corners of the world more peaceful. MCC will print and distribute the winning poster! **Click [here](#) for full contest details.**

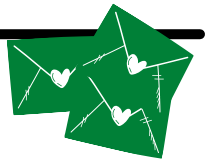
Shared by Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes



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

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!