

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled Prologue to the Decalogue using Exodus 20:1-17.

Often, any use of the Ten Commandments feels like a profound exercise in missing the point.

These foundational instructions for a community being rebuilt have regularly become fodder for culture wars. Are these useful to us?

Are these just relics? What part might these ancient commandments play in our efforts for justice in a modern, pluralistic society?

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

The Story of the Mennonite College of Nursing

**This Saturday, October 10 at 10 am Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center
675 State Route 116, Metamora, IL 61548**

Join the Illinois Mennonite Heritage Center for "Pioneers in Healthcare Keepers of the Flame: The Story of the Mennonite College of Nursing" presented by Marry Ann Watkins, MS, RN; Catherine Miller, EdD, MS, RN, FAADN; Susan Blystone, MS; and Gail Lamb, EdD, MS on Saturday, October 10 at 10 am. Lunch will be served and donations are appreciated. RSVP to Lori at (309) 303-6950. **View the flyer [here](#).**



Connections Across 50 Years

Submissions due this Monday, October 12

If you have been putting off writing something for the collection of stories we are compiling (Connections Across 50 Years), now is the time to get pen to paper! We have extended the deadline to **October 12th**, which is quickly approaching. We would still love to have more personal or historical stories, and you can find more information including some samples [here](#)—or see the unedited preview of the book near the timeline in the atrium. Send your submissions to kevin@normalmennonite.org.



Church Office & Building Closed

Monday, October 12

The Church building and office will be closed all day on Monday, October 12 for Indigenous Peoples' Day. Thank you for your understanding!

Shared by the Church Office

Pastoral Team Annual Review



Due 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

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

Non-perishable Food Donations for Worship

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.



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!

Success of School Kits



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 who supplied boxes to pack them in.

Shared by the Louise & Deanna



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

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!

What is your MCN story?

Name:

Story:

Date:



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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, October 7

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:30 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, October 8

7:00 am Next Man Bible Study

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

7:30 pm Administration Commission (Zoom)

Monday, October 12

All Day Church Building & Office Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, October 13

9:30 am Community Life Commission

3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 14

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group

1:00 pm Quilting

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)



Election Protection Solidarity Training

Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 pm Central Time

In May of this year, the federal government gutted the Voting Rights Act and some southern states followed suit. Although legislators do not explicitly state their intention of racial discrimination, the impact of this legislation clearly stifles the right to vote for African-Americans, immigrants, senior citizens, and youth. It is an expression of White Christian nationalism, which privileges white, wage-earning men and women above others. Feeling the pressure on our rights for free and fair elections, seeing how this pressure intersects with racism, and seeing how it could hinder democratic efforts to stop the ongoing US funding of war and genocide in Gaza, the Building Courage committee began to explore what election protection looks like for Mennonite Action chapters. Mennonite Action invites you to join a training on October 14th at 5pm CT to talk through what election protection on a local level can practically look like, and how to join in coalition with groups already engaged. Additionally, consider utilizing [this form](#) to tell us more about your group's context related to election protection. **Learn more and register for Election Protection Solidarity Training with Mennonite Action [here](#).**

MC USA Resolution guidelines for the 2027 Delegate Assembly

The Mennonite Church USA Executive Board has appointed a new Resolutions Committee and published its "[Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions and Church Statements in Mennonite Church USA](#)" for the 2027 Delegate Assembly, which will be held July 9, at the First Financial Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. The deadline for submitting proposed resolutions is Nov. 11, 2026. In accordance with the guidelines, the deadline is 240 days prior to the Delegate Assembly to allow sufficient opportunity for delegates and other constituencies to process and review proposed actions. "Throughout this biennium, the Executive Board has been leading a process to help us reimagine Mennonite Church USA in the year 2040," said Jon Carlson, Resolutions Committee chair. "The Delegate Assembly will provide an opportunity for the whole church to synthesize and strengthen this work by drawing on our diverse experiences. The 'Guidelines for Developing Organizational Resolutions' provides an important pathway for any part of the church to bring their local discernment to the broader community." **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's press release [here](#).**

Peaceful service in wartime blossoms into lifelong friendships

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, while the Vietnam War divided the nation, a remarkable group of young Mennonite volunteers arrived in the hills of Sullivan County, New Hampshire. In waves of 13-15 people, they came for alternative service. What they found in the hospital wings, dorm housing and barn yards was friendships held so dear that, more than fifty years later, the group continues to gather for reunions. In April 2026, these former service volunteers held a reunion at Das Essenhaus in Middlebury, Indiana. Those in attendance were Allen and Rita (Knepp) Stutzman, Betty (Esch) and Duane Hofstetter, Donald Esch, Earl and Wilma Hofstetter, Linda (Eby) Rider, Roland King, Roland (Butch) and Teresa Seiler, and Wesley Gingrich. Several others who were unable to attend were warmly remembered. **Read the rest of Jane Morrow's blog post for Mennonite Mission Network [here](#).**

Blessed to serve in grace-filled spaces

It's holy work to affirm God's queer children.

When I came out as a gay man in 1991, the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests was a lifeline for me. I attended the first BMC men's retreat in Ohio in September that same year. That weekend offered fellowship and friendship that were essential in my journey of growth and acceptance to love myself. It was a turning point that facilitated the reshaping of my faith and expanded my understanding of God as Divine Spirit of unconditional love. Rooted in peace-and-justice teachings of the Church of the Brethren, it was BMC people and events that pointed me to liberation theology and affirming relationships beyond the faith foundation of my youth. During these years, BMC nurtured my gifts. I served on the BMC board, coordinated BMC conventions and worked on committees that led me to reclaim my call to ministry. I met spiritual mentors that nurtured a former calling to attend Bethany Theological Seminary. These voices helped me redefine my understanding of God, find my voice and stand in my truth as a beloved child of God. Seminary was a chapter in my life that I thought was closed. Through the prayerful support of the BMC people, I completed my master of divinity degree. I walked through the ordination process without assuming where the journey would lead. The love of God and the radical work on the margins must continue to push boundaries and build inclusive communities. This ministry of affirmation and inclusion is the foundation and future of God's expansive realm. **Read the rest of Matthew J. Smucker's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

War's climate impact goes up in smoke

The residents of Tehran woke on March 8 to thick, black smoke engulfing their city after the Israeli military bombed fuel depots. The immediate human and environmental impacts of the war were disturbingly evident, but what about the broader climate impact? A Climate and Community Institute analysis found that in the first two weeks, the U.S. and Israel bombardment of Iran and Iran's retaliatory strikes produced more than 5 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mmtCO₂e) — more than Iceland produces in one year. Beyond 35,000 missile strikes from all parties in the first 40 days, additional emissions will come from rebuilding damaged infrastructure. Strikes continued into a fifth month, despite an alleged ceasefire. Other recent conflicts have come with similar climate impacts. According to one study, the ongoing Russian military invasion of Ukraine emitted 237 mmtCO₂e in the first three years. The first 15 months of the Israeli assault on Gaza emitted 32 mmtCO₂e — the equivalent of operating eight coal-fired power plants for a year or driving a car 83.6 billion miles. In the short term, people in the U.S. can take immediate action, in addition to praying for peace, by urging members of Congress to: oppose supplemental spending bills for waging war against Iran, insist the administration seek congressional authorization for military action, publicly oppose U.S. military aggression in the Middle East and beyond, reappropriate to human and ecological needs the proposed \$1.5 trillion Pentagon budget. **Read the rest of Kirstin De Mello's article published by the *Anabaptist World* [here](#).**

October 20 action to stop the U.S. war on Iran

Tuesday, October 20

On October 20, organizations and individuals across the U.S. will gather at their nearest congressional office, 30 minutes before the office opens for the day, and ask their members of Congress to take action to stop the U.S. war against Iran. If a peace deal isn't reached ahead of the U.S. midterm election, we are at risk of the war against Iran becoming a forever war. We need decisive action by our members of Congress to stop the war. In this key moment, you can call on your members of Congress to: **1.** Pledge to oppose any defense appropriation or authorization spending that fails to end the war against Iran. **2.** Release a statement affirming the legally binding nature of the Iran War Powers Resolutions and support future war powers resolutions. **3.** Publicly push for the full release of the Department of Defense's investigation into the U.S. bombing of the Minab Elementary School. **4.** Publicly call for and support a peace agreement, which will require lifting sanctions and unfreezing assets. **Find [events near you](#) and sign up [here](#).**

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries

Actions speak louder

When leaders fail us, we roll up our sleeves.

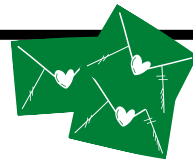
Frustrated with political and religious leaders who offered empty words, apathy and cruelty, Jesus proclaimed that God judges based on actions — specifically, actions toward those society deems unworthy. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells a parable about how God will judge people by their actions toward society's most vulnerable: "I was hungry and you gave me food. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me." There's a tendency to sort politicians (and nonpoliticians) into good and bad categories based solely on political labels. Similarly, we might think all we need to do is elect the right person from the right group, and that will fix everything. But when citizens of a society and of God's kingdom decide their role is only to elect someone from a certain group, democracy and general well-being are in jeopardy. We have a responsibility to think and act more deeply. Jesus told us how to judge our leaders' actions. Do they feed the hungry? How do they treat immigrants? Care for the sick? Do they show compassion to prisoners? Anabaptists go further and emphasize Jesus' teachings on nonviolence, looking for policymakers who oppose military spending and war-making. **Read the rest of [Tammy Alexander and Galen Fitzkee'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!



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!

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; 309-452-6622

Rita Munkakusi:

Custodian

Kevin Chupp:

Pastor for Community Life Commission, Outreach Commission,
Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, & Worship Commission;
kevin@normalmennonite.org

Lauren Satchwell:

Pastoral Team Lead & Pastor for Administration Commission,
Discipling Commission, & Vision Team;
lauren@normalmennonite.org