THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORMAL | NOVEMBER 23, 2026

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP
THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Kevin Chupp will preach a sermon titled *Unavoidable Impatience* using Habakkuk 1:1-4; 3:17-19.

Habakkuk's cycles of impatience and trust strike a confusing but familiar tone to us. The chaos and injustice he sees around him drive him to ask big questions about God's action on behalf of God's people. As we step into Advent, we ask a hard question: What does it mean to be patient when action is necessary?

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



Church Office & Building Closed

This Tuesday-Friday, November 24-27

The church building and office will be closed Tuesday through Friday (November 24-27) this week. Thank you for your understanding!

Shared by the Church Office



Advent Evening Prayer

Sundays at 6 pm and Monday-Fridays at 7 pm during Advent

Interested in keeping focused on the deeper meaning of Christmas during the Advent season? You are invited to join in Advent Evening Prayer from the comfort of your home. Each evening Sunday through Friday beginning November 29 you can light the candles on your Advent Wreath and join in the reading. On Sundays we will have Evening Prayer at 6 (to allow for choir practice) and Monday-Friday at 7 pm. We will be using Kate Bowler's 2026 Advent materials. The Zoom link that we will be using is below. If 7 pm doesn't suit you, how about 9 pm? We will repeat the readings at 9. Questions or not able to access the materials? Contact Lynn. **Link to materials.**

Shared by the Worship Commission

Christmas Tree Lighting at Carle BroMenn Chapel Garden

Wednesday, December 2 at 4:00 pm

Join Carle BroMenn on December 2 at 4:00 p.m. for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Carle BroMenn Medical Center as we gather to celebrate the holiday season and the spirit of community. This special event offers an opportunity to come together, enjoy the season, and share in a cherished tradition that brings light, hope, and joy to those we serve. As part of this celebration, Carle BroMenn will also be collecting donations to support patients in need. You are invited to bring a new or unworn pair of sweatpants or sweatshirts in any size or color, or/and unused travel-size toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, lotion, and other unopened personal care items. Clothing donations will be provided to patients who are discharged from the hospital without appropriate clothing, while toiletries will be assembled into care kits for patients facing difficult circumstances. After the tree lighting, these items will be sorted in containers and bags ready to be distributed to patients. Your generosity can make a meaningful difference, helping ensure that patients are met with dignity, comfort, and compassionate care during the holiday season. We hope you will join us for this meaningful event and help spread hope and kindness throughout our community.

Shared by the Congregational Care Committee

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped dismantle Thanksgiving decorations and to those who moved Christmas trees for us! Happy Thanksgiving!

Shared by Vivian and Nancy

Special Advent CE for All Ages on December 6

Sunday, December 6

On December 6th, we'll have a special intergenerational Sunday School experience with Advent tangram puzzles, singing, and fellowship! This is the only CE experience that will be offered on that day. To help Discipling Commission prepare materials for the event, please sign up all members of your family on this **Sign-Up Genius**. We hope you can make it!

Shared by the Discipling Commission



Periodical Renewals

Deadline: Monday, December 7

It's that time of year again -- periodical subscription renewals! Each year the church organizes group subscriptions to three Mennonite publications: *Rejoice!* (a quarterly devotional) by Menno Media for $40, *The Upper Room Daily Devotional* (delivered quarterly) for $9.30, and *Anabaptist World* (12 issues) for $49. This gives everyone the opportunity to subscribe these publications with a discounted rate through the church office. If you would like to **renew**, **begin**, or **end** a subscription to **one or more** of these publications, please contact Lydia in the church office at 309-452-6622 or church@normalmennonite.org **before Monday, December 7th.**

From the Church Office

Kay Yow Cancer Fund – Screening Mammograms at No Cost for Eligible Patients in Mclean County

The Kay Yow Cancer Fund and Carle Health have partnered to provide funding for patients in McLean County to receive screening mammograms at no cost to those who are eligble. This funding will be available over the next two years (starting April 2026) and will be aimed toward increasing breast cancer awareness and encouraging screenings. Many underserved patients in our community experience challenge such as limited awareness about the importance of mammogram screenings, insufficient insurance coverage, and difficulties accessing convenient medical care. Together, we hope to help mitigate those challenges with the use of this funding. **Click here to view a flyer for more information about eligibility requirements, how to register, and location information.**

Shared by the Congregational Care Committee

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.

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

This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Monday, November 23
7:30 pm Vision Team (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 24
All Day Church Building & Office Closed
3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 25
All Day Church Building & Office Closed
9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting

Thursday, November 26
All Day Church Building & Office Closed

Friday, November 27
All Day Church Building & Office Closed

Sunday, November 29
6:00 pm Advent Evening Prayers Begin
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Tuesday, December 1
3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)
7:00 pm Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 2
9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
6:30 pm Congregational Care Committee (Zoom)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Those Serving This Week

The land has a longing: discovering 'telos' right under our feet

Have you ever wondered what a piece of land wants to become? In the New Testament, the Greek writers use a rich word over fifty times to describe ultimate purpose: *telos*. It is a tricky word to translate into English. It means "fulfillment," "completion" or even "destiny." The ancient philosopher Aristotle famously explained it this way: the *telos* of an acorn is an oak tree. It isn't just about how things end up; it is about the inner purpose God has woven into the thread of creation from the beginning. *Telos* helps us understand where we, the church and all of creation are heading. But it also changes how we look at the very dirt beneath our feet. As we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming, let's also practice opening our eyes to the hidden kingdom taking root underfoot. The land is waiting for its fulfillment. We are invited to be at home there and join in the waiting. **Read the rest of Andrew Hudson's article published by the *Anabaptist World* here.**

Ohio Behavioral Health Scholarship

Bluffton University has been awarded $450,000 through the Ohio Behavioral Health Scholarship (OBHS) program, a statewide initiative designed to increase the number of licensed behavioral health professionals serving communities across Ohio. The award, administered by Health Impact Ohio in partnership with the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health and the Ohio Department of Higher Education, will support up to 30 Bluffton University Master of Social Work (MSW) students, 10 in the fall of 2026 and 20 in the fall of 2027, through December 2028. Eligible students may receive up to $15,000 annually in scholarship funding, with institutional aid reducing tuition and general fees to $0. **Read the rest of Bluffton University's announcement here.**

An Instrument of Peace: With Girl Named Tom

Monday, December 7 at 7 pm CT

We are thrilled to invite you to Mennonite Action's major donor call in December, where we'll be joined by Girl Named Tom members Caleb, Bekah, and Josh! In addition to updates from MA on our work in 2026 and what we're looking ahead to in 2027, Girl Named Tom will share part of their story and play us a song. Save the date for December 7th, 7pm CT. **You can go ahead and register to attend here.** We would love to have you join, and extend the invite to others in your network who might be in a position to give to MA this holiday season. We appreciate the incredible generosity you've showed to Mennonite Action, and we're excited for an opportunity to share more about what that has meant for this work. May we continue to collectively channel our resources for a free Palestine and the liberation of all God's children. We're grateful to have you in this movement, as Mennonites and friends step into our role together.

Shared by Mennonite Action

Community is where hope grows

In a Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA, Ingrid Friesen Moser explores how community dispels loneliness, renews hope and supports pastor and congregational well-being in recognition of National Clergy Appreciation Month. **Read Ingrid Friesen Moser's Menno Snapshot for Mennonite Church USA here.**

More than words: One church's path toward reconciliation

At a fundraiser supporting Indigenous elders with e-trikes, Marianne Thee (née Penner), a member of Peace Mennonite Church in Richmond, BC, volunteered at the water and ticket table alongside two young Indigenous women. "They were shy at first, but then we had great conversations about school and university," she recalls. "It starts really small, just being side-by-side, having a conversation. It's simple." This simple moment marked a meaningful step in Marianne's personal journey and in Peace Mennonite Church's growing commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Peace Mennonite's journey began with learning. Marianne, who spent over 50 years as a nurse caring for people from many cultures, remembers, "We learnt nothing in school about Indigenous history." That absence left a gap: a curiosity mixed with a desire to understand more. The church took intentional steps toward education with support from the MCC BC Indigenous Neighbours program. At a Sunday worship service, members first participated in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, an immersive experience revealing the history and ongoing impact of colonization in Canada. Some members continued further by joining book study courses with Indigenous speakers who shared their stories and struggles. Marianne reflects, "It was great to hear their stories. We as settlers are very privileged to hear them." In 2021, the discovery of 215 unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School brought national attention to Canada's painful history. In response, Peace Mennonite Church began marking important days like Red Dress Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation within their annual worship calendar, creating meaningful opportunities for reflection and learning. **Read the rest of Monet Lamphere-Ma's blog post for Mennonite Central Committee here.**

Winter Family Camps

Feb. 12-14 - Family Winter Camp I
Feb 19-21 - Family Winter Camp II

Camp Friedenswald has two weekends Winter Family Camps to choose from! Winter Family Camp promises a weekend for rest (we cook for you!), intergenerational play and child-accessible worship. This retreat runs Friday evening through Sunday noon, and is open to all who consider themselves "family" – no matter how you define it. Camp runs from Friday through Sunday with Friday dinner @ 6:30pm the first event and Sunday brunch @ 11:30 am the final event. Weather-permitting, we'll have fabulously fun winter activities like snow tubing, sledding, cross country skiing, and broomball on the ice. We just might convince you that winter is your favorite season at camp! Families are housed in their own private accommodation (cabin or lodge room) with a self-contained restroom and shower. Cost: Adults $160, Youth $125, Family Max $570. Scholarships are available. **For more information, click here.**

Mosaic steps out on its own

A year after leaving MC USA, conference celebrates diversity, defines identity.

Stepping into autonomy, Mosaic Mennonite Conference is celebrating its intercultural diversity and defining its identity as a place where "high expectations and gracious hospitality meet." One year after delegates voted to end their affiliation with Mennonite Church USA, about 250 people gathered at Souderton Mennonite Church and Zion Mennonite Church in Souderton, Pa., for Mosaic's annual assembly Nov. 6-7. For inspiration, they drew on the passionate preaching of a West Coast pastor who embodies Mosaic's intercultural character and expansion far beyond its historic heartland in Bucks and Montgomery counties north of Philadelphia. Originally from Nigeria, Grace Pam of Los Angeles Faith Chapel belongs to one of the immigrant groups that anchor Mosaic's membership, of which nearly half are people of color. With the disaffiliation decision behind them (the recommendation to leave MC USA passed with 74% support last November), delegates turned their attention to topics like how to support immigrant congregations and how to decide whether an 11-year-old document on sexuality still suits the conference today. "We commit to ongoing support of recent immigrant communities within Mosaic as we struggle together through this time. We commit ourselves to lives of conscience that honor the humanity of all people, regardless of documentation status." Another group discussed conference policy regarding LGBTQ+ people and LGBTQ-affirming congregations. Currently, a 2015 document, "Grace and Truth," prohibits pastors from performing same-sex covenant ceremonies and mandates a review of their credentials if they do. A new document, "Clarifying Our Center," approved by the conference board in 2025, urges acceptance of differences "with grace and humility" — implicitly casting a new light on previous restrictions and punitive responses. Differing views on sexuality and scripture were among the reasons some Mosaic members wanted to leave MC USA. Mosaic's acceptance of LGBTQ-affirming congregations and allowance of local discernment have drawn some congregations in and led others to leave. **Read the rest of Paul Schrag'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!

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

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!