THE MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORMAL | NOVEMBER 4, 2026

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP
THIS SUNDAY 9:30 AM

This Sunday, Lynette Miller will preach a sermon titled *The Math of Glory* using 2 Kings 5.

This story of the healing of Naaman has a numerous array of characters who have different roles to play. What they do and how they respond to events in the narrative demonstrate God's surprising choice of significant instruments to accomplish God's purposes. How does the actions of these characters instruct us in our own responses to God?

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

Tomorrow, November 5

The church building and office will be closed all day tomorrow, November 5. Thank you for your understanding!

Shared by the Church Office



JYMF/MYF Lunch

This Sunday, November 8

All students in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for a J/MYF lunch and time of fellowship from 12:00-1:30 this Sunday, November 8th.

Shared by the Discipling Commission

Youth & Adult Choirs



This Sunday, November 8

Beginning this Sunday, November 8, Youth Choir will rehearse at 6 and Adult choir at 7.



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. 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



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

Safe Harber Chess Teacher



Do you play chess? Safe Harbor homeless shelter is looking for a volunteer to teach & lead a group of clients in playing chess once a week. Details would be worked out with the Director, it would be during the day probably for 1- 1 1/2 hours. If you are interested, talk to Joe. Thanks.

Shared by Joe

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. The hearing will be held in person and on Zoom.

- You can view the proposed 2027 Spending Plan **here**.
- You can view the Narrative Spending Plan version for 2027 **here**.
- *Pastor/Staff insurance costs have been updated.*

Members of the Administration Commission will be available after worship this 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)

Oppose the National Defense Authorization Act

Both Mennonite Action and the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL, a Quaker Advocacy organization) are strongly encouraging all who are committed to peace to contact their U.S. Senators to vote **against** S 4784, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). A companion bill in the House of Representatives was passed On July 22, 2026. The senate version of the bill is currently being held up by a filibuster. The proposed legislation would authorize over a $ trillion for defense and two sections of the bill would approve an expansion of "Cooperative Projects" between the U.S. and Israeli militaries even as Israeli security and defense forces are accused of violating human rights and international humanitarian law. Since October 2023 the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) has been responsible for the deaths of over 73,000 Palestinians in Gaza and has killed 1,400 and wounded 5000 since last year's "ceasefire" was announced. Please write your senators as soon as possible. See **actionnetwork.org** for a tool to do so. View Mennonite Action's announcement **here**.

Shared by the Outreach Commission

November 22 at 3 pm at Bloomington-Normal YMCA (202 St Joseph Dr)



Join the Bloomington-Normal YMCA for a gathering to celebrate unity, gratitude, and community. This special event welcomes all faiths to come together in the spirit of giving thanks as we reflect on the many blessings we share. Enjoy an evening of inspirational messages, music, and fellowship, and leave with a full heart and a sense of connection. Bring family and friends—everyone is welcome! ASL Interpreter will be present and a freewill offering will be taken. **Learn more 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



This Week at MCN



A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:

Wednesday, November 4
9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
7:30 pm Discipling Commission (Zoom)

Thursday, November 5
All Day Office & Building Closed
7:00 am Next Man Bible Study
9:30 am Women's Bible Study
7:30 pm Vision Team & Commission Meeting

Sunday, November 8
6:00 pm Youth Choir
7:00 pm Adult Choir

Monday, November 9
5:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, November 10
3:00 pm Pastoral Team (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 11
9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group
1:00 pm Quilting
7:00 pm Fellowship Committee (Zoom)

Guyton to conclude role as MC USA executive director

Mennonite Church USA Executive Director Glen Guyton will conclude his role on Dec. 31, 2026, and will not seek renewal for a fourth term. On Jan. 1, 2027, he will begin a new role as president and chief operating officer of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Executive Board will oversee the transition process and keep the church informed as plans develop. **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's press release here.**

Rev. Iris de León-Hartshorn interim executive director of MC USA

The Executive Board of Mennonite Church USA has appointed Rev. Iris de León-Hartshorn as interim executive director, effective Jan. 1, 2027, making her the first woman to hold this role. Since 2018, de León-Hartshorn has served as associate executive director for Operations and director of Human Resources. The Executive Board will appoint a search committee in early 2027 to begin a nationwide search for a permanent executive director. **Read the rest of Mennonite Church USA's press release here.**



JAZZ FRONT
107 W. FRONT STREET BLOOMINGTON, IL
(309) 200-8216

Presents

TROM BARI

Friday, November 6th - 8PM



Jim Pugh - Trombone
Glenn Wilson - Baritone Sax
Kurt Reeder - Piano
Larry Gray - Bass
Jay Ferguson - Drums



MCC Action Alert

Background: The U.S. Senate will vote soon on a broad permitting reform bill, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA). The legislation includes upgrades to the electrical grid and permitting process, which may allow more renewable energy into the grid and reduce overall emissions. However, analysis shows that any progress BAAJA would make toward increased clean energy would be at the expense of vulnerable communities and the bedrock environmental policies that safeguard public health, ensure clean water and protect precious ecosystems. Specifically, the legislation would:

- Give datacenters quick permits for new gas pipelines.
- Expedite mining permits, at a time when the Defense Department's demand for critical minerals has grown more than tenfold in five years.
- Prohibit future administrations from reconsidering permits based on new health or environmental data.
- Remove clean water protections and open Marine Sanctuaries to commercial development.
- Erode Tribal sovereignty and threaten Tribal heritage.
- Undermine the ability of communities to challenge projects in courts.
- Weaken protections for endangered species.

As people of faith committed to caring for our neighbors and protecting our sacred Earth, we should seek legislation that expands community input and supports a healthy planet, not policies that cause further harm. **Faith reflection:** "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7 NIV) **Take action: Urge the U.S. Senate to oppose BAAJA**

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

Caroline and her chickens hatch new plans for her future

When you give a gift through MCC's Christmas Giving Guide, you change someone's life.

Caroline Mwendwa is a farmer living in Ngulwani, Kenya. After receiving training from MCC partner Utooni Development Organization (UDO), Caroline is now raising chickens and earning money from the sale of poultry and eggs. She's been able to expand other parts of her land too, adding a pond where she grows Azolla, an aquatic fern she feeds her chickens to help boost egg production. She grows fodder, baling and storing it to feed her flock. The success of her chickens has led to her also operating a small shop selling staples like sugar, flour, rice and other items to her neighbors, further diversifying her income. The chicks she initially purchased are a breed that mature three times faster, produce softer meat and sell for six times as much as local chickens. From the initial batch of 20, she sold 13 for enough profit to buy 50 more chickens. With UDO's training, Caroline learned how to effectively feed and tend the chickens rather than letting them just roam the farm. As she raised and sold more chickens, she bought bigger containers for feed and water and purchased antibiotics, calcium and disinfectants to protect the chickens from diseases. Stories like Caroline's are made possible through gifts in MCC's Christmas Giving Guide. When you buy the gift of chickens for a loved one, you're setting up people like Caroline for long-term success. **To learn more visit mcc.org/Christmas or give the gift of chickens yourself today.**

Shared by Mennonite Central Committee

To heal our wounds, release the ghosts of our past

We're living in a time of turmoil, not only globally and nationally but within our church institutions. Congregations and conferences have left Mennonite Church USA, discord has shaken Mennonite World Conference, and people are reporting harmful treatment by Mennonite Central Committee administrators. Disputes and misunderstanding are not unique to Mennonites, but I wonder if aspects of our history and culture make us more susceptible to conflict and harsh patterns of judgment and division. Certainly, difficult accountability processes and separation are sometimes necessary. But how do we discern when these actions are legitimate or when they represent unhealthy reactions rooted in unrecognized or unresolved trauma? I have found that the Sanctuary Model, created by psychiatrist Sandra Bloom, offers valuable insights. Bloom proposes that just as individuals use "fight, flight or freeze" behaviors to deal with trauma, so too do groups and institutions. They too can respond by fighting with aggression, shame and control; fleeing with fragmentation, confusion and denial; and freezing by withdrawal, numbness and paralysis. Anabaptists have done all of these things. The good news is that when we recognize and address trauma, we can find new possibilities for solving problems. Organizations can turn away from patterns of control, rigidity and top-down decision-making and instead commit to practices of nonviolence, emotional intelligence, curiosity, open communication and shared responsibility. I offer the following thoughts and questions for discussion and testing, especially for those of us from European ancestry. My intent is not to diminish the witness and courage of our ancestors. Yet, I think it is useful to explore how their experiences of persecution and martyrdom may have resulted in negative characteristics that have harmed our common life but that we can now recognize and change. **Read the rest of Linda Gehman Peachey's article published by the *Anabaptist World* here.**

October E-memo: Policy Updates

- **Border wall construction:** On October 2, a federal judge temporarily halted construction of border wall in the Big Bend region of Texas. State officials and advocacy groups alike have expressed intense outrage for months over the $6 billion project causing serious community and environmental harm, and this ruling was seen as a small win toward restoring more permanent environmental protections for the region.
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE):** Multiple individuals have been gravely harmed during ICE activity in recent weeks, sparking impromptu protests across the country. These incidents come amidst an uptick in violent encounters with the agency since early 2025. Advocacy groups continue to call for accountability, reform of operational practices, and a decrease in funding for ICE. **Take action:** Stop funding immigration raids. **Be inspired:** Stolen neighbors quilt — A testimony of love | As ICE readies Louisiana facility for children and families, faith leaders hold vigil
- **Permitting reform bill headed for committee votes:** Two Senate committees will vote soon on a permitting reform bill that would support clean energy projects but also speed up permitting for new gas pipelines to meet the energy demands of datacenters. Further, it would expedite mining on public lands, remove clean water protections, erode Tribal sovereignty, and weaken the ability of communities to challenge projects in court.

Shared in the Mennonite Central Committee U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries October E-Memo

CDC Conference Administrator

Central District Conference is seeking an 80% to full time conference administrator beginning January 1, 2027. The administrator collaborates with other staff and volunteers to assist pastors and congregations in their ministries. This is a role for someone who loves bringing order and care to complex work, uses technology skillfully, and sees their work as a calling; serving a church community that is growing and changing. Read a cover letter from the conference minister and see a full job description here. To apply, send a cover letter and résumé to conference minister, Doug Luginbill at doug@mcusacdc.org by December 14. Résumés will be reviewed beginning November 15.

Shared by Central District Conference

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!