



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world

October 21, 2015

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

Two parishioners were looking at their phones while discussing the instructions for preparing for the sermon: "Pastor said read the text. Which one?"

Why did the scientist install a knocker on his door? *He wanted to win the No-bell prize!*

Which day do chickens hate the most? *Friday.*

Happy Birthday!

Esther Brown 10/22
Lisa Jablonski 10/22
Larry Schrader 10/22
Joe Jantze 10/23
Don Augspurgen 10/24
James Brandon 10/25
Sarah Nichols 10/25
Clara Ponneau-Delaffon 10/26
Margaret Sila 10/26
Jeremie Dedetemo 10/28
Addie Zehr 10/28

Happy Anniversary!

Aaron & Emily Petri (2)
10/26

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

*Cal Hubbard

*Ken Shoemaker

*Lydia Wilson as she starts campus ministry in Spain

If you have a prayer concern for which you would appreciate the prayers of your church family, please call the church office at 452-6622 or email Lynn.

Worship with us this Sunday, October 25

Serving this Sunday

Greeters	South—Annette & Rick Harnish West—Nancy Fisher
Welcome Table	Volunteer needed
Ushers	Mike & Stephanie Company Larry Schrader; Elfriede Massier
Worship Leader	Matt Hickman
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Song Leader	Barry Weaver
Children's Time	Holly Zehr
Scripture	Lynn Reha
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Nathan Miller
Preschool Nursery	Lena Driscoll

MCN Events This Week

Thurs Oct 22	Next Man's Bible Study 6:15 am Church Board Retreat 6:45 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 pm Christian Education 11:00 am Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior High Youth Group 4:30 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Homebuilders 7:00 pm Staff Meeting 9:30 am
Sun Oct 25	
Tues Oct 27	

Upcoming Events

Mennonite Women Can Create will be held on October 24th at the Tremont Community Center (216 S. Sampson St., Tremont). Please RSVP to the IMC office by [10/20/15 \(309\) 925-2111](tel:3099252111) or email hmason@mennonite.net. You can also register on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/events/1686461751585453/>. This event was inspired by *Spark, Igniting Your God-Given Creativity*, a women's Bible study written by April Yamasaki and commissioned by Mennonite Women Canada & Mennonite Women USA. There is a flyer with additional information on the Entrance Bulletin Board.

Homebuilders Sunday, October 25 Please note that Homebuilders will be at 7:00 pm, not 6:45 as previously announced. The program, Incarcerated Women and the Impact on Families, will be given by Dawn Beichner, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at ISU. Everyone welcome.

Day of Discernment The Illinois Mennonite Conference is sponsoring Day of Discernment 2015 on November 7 from 9am-3pm at the Tremont Community Center in Tremont, IL. The focus is *We actively seek the Holy Spirit's guidance!* The presenter/facilitators are Kristin Jackson and Amos Shakya from Living Water Community Church. Please let Lotus

Partners in Healing

Mennonite Church of Normal join with other churches in the area to pray for various sections of Advocate Bro Menn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital. This month MCN is asked to pray for the Medical Oncology Specialty Unit at Advocate BroMenn.

Please call the church office if you or someone in your family is hospitalized. Due to HIPAA regulations, persons may be hospitalized for several days before your pastors are aware of a need for pastoral care.

Voice of the Day

The effort to untangle the human words from the divine seems not only futile to me but also unnecessary, since God works with what is. God uses whatever is usable in a life, both to speak and to act, and those who insist on fireworks in the sky may miss the electricity that sparks the human heart."

— Barbara Brown Taylor,

Conference Newsletters

[Click the link](#) to read the current *Heart, Soul, Mind & Strength*, IMC Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available. The CDC Focus is available [here](#) and the CDC Reporter [here](#).

Hershberger know if you are interested in attending. A flyer with additional information is posted on the Entrance Bulletin Board.

Alternative Gifts Fair Sundays November 8 and 15: MCC and AGI Gift Catalogs are now on the library table for browsing. If you and your family would like to do a booth this year, now is the time to select the project which best sets your creative juices flowing! As always, the early worm gets (in this case) the wished for project!

Blood Drive Saturday, November 14, 8:00-12:00 at MCN. Please sign up in the Church Library or call the Church Office.

Surprise Luncheon Our annual surprise luncheon is December 6 following Sunday School. What is a surprise luncheon? You sign up to host a small group for dinner or attend as a guest. The surprise is that you find out on Sunday, December 6, where you will be for dinner. So, please sign up to host or attend the Surprise Luncheon by completing the flyer in your mailbox by November 30th. Please turn the completed flyers in to Connie Reeser-Hall or the Church Office. *Fellowship Committee*

Mennonite Disaster Service Trip early December? Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is looking for a church group of volunteers for Dec 6-12 for home re-building following tornados in Pilger, Nebraska. Gerry Schrock is interested in going along as cook if others are interested. Anyone else interested and able to go? Please contact Pastor Jane immediately (by Nov 1).

Of Note

Sowing Sisterhood The Illinois Mennonite Women Quarterly Newsletter "Sowing Sisterhood" is attached to this Midweek Connection. There is great reading here for women AND men.

Of Special Interest

Creches for the Sanctuary Sconces. Might you have a Christmas Nativity Scene that is small enough to sit safely on a side sconce in our sanctuary? If so, would you allow us to use it this Christmas season (Nov 29-January 4)? They can be as simple as Mother/Father/Child or be the traditional entire scene. Eight are needed. Please let Pastor Jane know.

Children's Choir opportunity! Mennonite Youth Choir Festival would like to invite children in grades 3-9 to join in a weekend of singing, March 5 - 6, 2016, in Goshen, Indiana. The church has a long and deep tradition of praising God through singing. In order for this to continue it is up to parents and the faith community around them to encourage their children with opportunities that develop a love for music in worship. Youth of all denominations are encouraged to participate.

2016 Festival Dates: Practice on Saturday, March 5, 2016; concert performance on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 2 p.m. (free and open to the public)

Who: Children from Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and beyond who love to sing grades 3 through 9.

Cost per Child: \$35 early registration (ends November 15), \$45 regular registration
Location: The Goshen College Music Center, Sauder Concert Hall, in Goshen, IN

2016 Guest Director: Brent Hyman

For more information and to register, please visit:

www.mennoniteyouthchoir.org; email : mychoirfest@gmail.com

Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale is quickly approaching. The Relief Sale Board has been working diligently on next year's sale and we wanted to share some information. The 2016 Illinois Relief Sale will be March 17-18, 2016 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. Once again, the board is challenging each congregation to donate at least five items to the auction. With the upcoming holiday season approaching, we encourage you to prayerfully consider purchasing items for the sale. Your hard work and dedication continues to make the sale a success.

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