

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP

**THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

The word “joy” floats around the atmosphere at the holiday season, all entwined in the perfect gift for giving, festive get-togethers, and beautiful decorations. Paul exhorts believers to “Rejoice in the Lord always”. How do the characters of Luke’s Christmas narrative give us a roadmap to continuous joy?

Lynette Miller will be preaching the sermon, The Fullness of Joy referencing scriptures Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6

The service will be live streamed on YouTube at this [link](#).

### **Those who are serving December 12:**

**South Greeters:** Steve & Deb Stenger

**West Greeter:** Phyllis Versteegh

**Ushers:** Eric & Chellie Miller

**Infant Nursery During Service:** Miriam Kennell

**Infant Nursery During CE:** Holly Zehr

**Preschool Nursery:** Stephanie Nester

**Gather Round Sing-Along:** Devon Tracy

**Worship Leader:** Marge Weaver

**Children's Story:** Shannon Unzicker

**Scripture Reader:** Mary Ann Watkins

**Song Leader:** Cindy Ropp

## *Important Dates:*

### **This Sunday:**

#### **After Worship:**

Christian Education  
for Children and  
Youth

The Adult Christian  
Education Class,  
Salt and Light



Please click [here](#) for meeting, zoom, and other recordings  
Please click [here](#) for instructions for joining MCN's livestream.



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

## *This Week at MCN*

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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:  
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT  
[NORMALMENNONITE.ORG](http://NORMALMENNONITE.ORG)

### **Wednesday, December 8**

**9:30 am** Men's Book Group

**7:00 pm** Pastoral Team Search Committee (Zoom)

### **Thursday, December 9**

**6:30 am** Next Man Bible Study

**2:00 pm** Women's Book Group

**6:00 pm** Administration Commission (Zoom)

**7:00 pm** Worship Commission (Zoom)

### **Monday, December 13**

**1:30pm** Community Life Commission

### **Tuesday, December 14**

**7:00pm** Interim Pastoral Team (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, December 15**

**9:30 am** Men's Book Group

**7:00 pm** Discipling Commission (Zoom)

## *School Kits*

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The high school Sunday School class is collecting MCC school kits through the end of the year. Please find a list of items for the school kits [linked](#). If you would like to donate a kit or kits, a bin will be available in the library. For those who wish to make a monetary gift, please see Randy Zehr. The Sunday School class will be procuring bags, so no need to provide them with your donation. Thank you for your support.

## *Structure Documents*

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Updated structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available at this [link](#).

## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



# Prayer Requests and Announcements

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Prayer requests and/or announcements should be submitted prior to the service. You may contact Lynette Miller via phone or email with your submissions throughout the week and she will relay them to the appropriate worship leader. Email: Lynette.Miller.k@gmail.com Phone: 309-261-7485

## Sharing Joys & Concerns

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MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT OF  
CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2021

## Delight Loved Ones with Gifts that Change Lives

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Farm animals.

That's what Jesus was surrounded by when he came into the world as a humble baby. And the gift of a brood of chicks or a goat is just one way that you can delight your loved ones this Christmas while sparking new opportunities and self-reliance for families across the globe.

Choose from gifts like wells or books for young readers. Or give room at the inn to honor a loved one's hospitality.

As you explore gifts you can give through MCC, may you also join in the joy of knowing just how much of a difference these gifts can make.

Fuzzy, tiny chicks might not seem like much of a safety net for a whole family. But in many places, raising chickens provides a valuable source of income and hope when rains don't come and a harvest fails.

Through each gift, from swaddling clothes to sewing machines, you are helping families have what they need to craft a brighter, healthier future for themselves and their children.

Select gifts today that will delight your loved ones and share God's love with global neighbors.

[Give gifts of Comfort and Joy.](#)

Thank you MCN for your generous gifts of \$3809.00 to MCC to date for our Alternative Gifts Fair! Can we get to \$5,000?

# The Giving Tree Project

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Thanks so much for your participation in the Giving Tree project.

**How to participate.** You are invited to look over the wishes on the ornaments on the tree on the right. If you see one that you feel called to, sign your name and put it on the tree on the left. There will be new wishes each week of Advent. The wish list is also below.

But...what if you don't feel called to anything that is being requested by the Commissions? What if you have another idea of what you would like to give as a present of service in the name of Jesus? What if it isn't even focused on something for the Mennonite Church of Normal? That is where these blue triangles come in. If you know right now what you would like to give Jesus for Christmas, write it on a blue triangle, sign your name and place it on the tree on the left. If you want to pray about it, take the blue triangle home, write down your gift, and bring it back next Sunday. The trees will be up ready for your gifts all during Advent.

First Sunday of Advent "wishes": **Library Assistant, Scripture Readers, Worship Leaders.**

Outreach Commission During the Ministry Moment last Sunday, the Outreach Commission shared their general focus, as well as specific projects, as they seek to build sustainable relationships with MCN and beyond. Emphasizing that they first of all value collaboration with others, they added the following tasks or 'wishes' on the Giving Tree:

- \*reading & scanning magazines for pertinent outreach issues**
- \*taking the food from the shopping cart to Mt. Pisgah**
- \*placing porch bags for our visitors**
- \*helping at Midwest Food Bank**

Advent is a time of preparation. Let's get gifts ready for Jesus.

In celebration of service,  
Lynn Reha for Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team

## Longest Night Interfaith Service

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A Service of Hope and Healing

For all who find the holidays difficult, all who search for healing, and all who pray for wholeness.

Please join us for a time of acknowledging our hurting places before God.

Thursday, December 16

Noon - Moses Montefiore Temple

6:30pm - Normal First United Methodist Church

Virtual service will also be available-the link will be provided by Normal FUMC and available after December 16th.

# Discipling Commission Updates

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The Discipling Commission has drafted both a mission statement and a philosophy statement for the commission.

Mission statement:

The Discipling Commission of MN seeks to encourage, develop and promote diverse learning opportunities for participants of all ages to build a strong foundation for faith and equip them to grow into mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

Philosophy statement:

As the Discipling Commission, we prayerfully approach our ministry with an emphasis on active faith development, which is built on knowledge and understanding of the Bible. As Anabaptists we place emphasis on the life and ministry of Jesus, as we discern together how to follow Him and live out his teachings in our daily lives.

Here is a Discipling Commission Questionnaire [link](#) to a two-part questionnaire prepared by the Discipling Commission about participation in library usage and Adult Christian Education. This questionnaire will be distributed in the service Sunday, but if you are not present, you can access the survey here.

## A Word from the Office

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Looking ahead: Bulletin Deadline for Christmas Eve and December 26 will be Tuesday December 21 at Noon!

## Interim Pastoral Team

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The interim Pastoral Team met last night, December 7. They communicated pleasure in the ability to offer communion to those that are not able to be in person. They also are looking ahead to the seven weeks of Ordinary Time between Advent and Lent. They are holding the congregation in prayer as they plan for this time around the theme, Parables of the Kingdom.

## *Christmas Feelings*

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In the Christmas story  
Are the feelings of our lives;  
The great PAIN in new birth,  
The JOY in seeing new life;  
The ALIENATION of being  
Away from the safety of home  
The ANXIETY of a strange place  
In a stable surrounded by animals;  
The UNCERTAINTY of the future,  
The PEACE of God's presence  
Through the vision of an angel;  
The FEAR of how they can  
Possibly survive the future.  
The JOY, FEAR, PAIN and  
UNCERTAINTY are the many  
Feelings we too experience  
As we manage the present  
And face our own futures.

-Ron Ropp

# Vision Team

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The Vision Team met on Monday, December 6. Following the meeting, Vision Team has the following items to share with the congregation:

1. The Vision Team has finalized its Philosophy of Ministry which is as follows:

We approach our ministry with humility and trust in God's grace...

1. Reflecting the teachings of Jesus.
2. Letting the Holy Spirit guide us.
3. Remaining firm in our Anabaptist beliefs.
4. Seeking and growing relationships.
5. Communicating transparently.
6. Promoting accountability.
7. Equipping our congregation to live out the teachings of Jesus.
8. Supporting our congregation in finding and using its spiritual gifts.
9. Motivating our congregation to move toward its vision and goals.
10. Expecting transformation.

2. The Vision Team has drafted a proposal that defines the durations of terms for the Commissions, Vision Team, Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team, and Pastoral Team Search Committee. We welcome input from the congregation before the proposal is finalized and adopted. Follow this link: [Terms of MCN Commissions and Teams](#).

The proposed plans for evaluations and terms of the long-term Pastoral Team will be presented soon in a separate document.

Please share your comments with Barry Weaver, Vision Team Chair.

3. Find Vision Team meeting minutes and resource documents in [the Vision Team folder on Google Drive](#).

# *Our Members in Care Facilities*

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PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS. SEND A CARD IF  
THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!

## *Staff Contact and Building Open Hours*

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Building Open: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM-Noon and 1:00PM-4:00PM.

Lynette Miller: Interim Pastor for Discipling and Community Life Commissions;  
[lynette.miller.k@gmail.com](mailto:lynette.miller.k@gmail.com) or 309-261-7485 or 309-963-4495

Lauren Satchwell: Interim Pastor for Vision Team, Administration & Outreach Commissions;  
[satchwell.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com) 309-830-6827

Holly Zehr: Interim Pastor for Worship & Spiritual Gift Discernment Team;  
[hmzehr@hotmail.com](mailto:hmzehr@hotmail.com) 309-846-860

Ron Ropp: Pastor for Pastoral Care; 309- 452- 8534

Maggie Burton: Office Administrator; [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer: Custodian

## *Directory*

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