



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

February 17, 2016

## MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

### Today's Chuckle

I changed my password to "incorrect." So whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say "Your password is incorrect."

When an employment application asks who is to be notified in case of emergency, I always write, "A very good doctor."

Just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year; not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an even number?

### Happy Birthday!

Kristi Stalter 2/21

### Happy Anniversary!

Deanna & Loren Moshier  
(45) February 20, 1971

### Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

\*Health concerns for:

- \*Alice Swift
- \*Cal Hubbard
- \*Russ Oyer
- \*Holly Nester  
Detweiler

\*Matt & Deb Hickman as adoption process moves forward slowly.

\*Joe and Ellen Culpepper and son Noah and family

\*Mental Health services, especially for college students

\*Social service clients, as social services budgets are cut.

\*Director for MCC Great Lakes

\*Family of Theresa Wood

### Worship with us this Sunday, February 21

The title of the sermon is *Covenants...Plural* and is based on Deuteronomy 28:1-2;15. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "Consider the contrast between the covenant found in Genesis 15 and Deuteronomy 28. We sometimes use the phrases 'conditional love' and 'unconditional love'. What do you learn in this regard from these texts? For a real challenge, consider Matthew 25: 31-46."

**This Sunday, February 21** Holy Communion will be served. Contributions for the Mutual Aid Fund are specifically sought on Communion Sundays. Resources from this benevolent fund are disbursed by the Pastoral Council in times of discerned need. Simply include your offering clearly marked "Mutual Aid" when the plate is passed or place your offering into the basket for Mutual Aid donations in the Atrium. Your gift will be gratefully received, and carefully distributed.

The Bible teaches that we are to "examine ourselves" in preparation (1 Cor 11:27-29). Our Mennonite forebears took seriously the idea of being fully at peace with God and one's Christian brothers and sisters in order to partake. Let us prepare with similar prayerful reflection and personal examination.

**A Word about our Worship Visuals** Quilters have named blocks after Bible stories for generations. The Bible was the primary literary resource in many early American homes, providing inspiration for nineteenth century quilters, who mostly used scraps and outgrown or clothing beyond repair to sew covers to keep their loved ones warm. Throughout our True Story study series, a variety of quilt blocks representing Bible stories or themes will be presented. Here is a description of this Sunday's visual:

*At the Center: The First Commandment - The first of the Ten Commandments, given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, was that the people of Israel were to have no other gods except for the LORD (Ex 20:3). This is a "modern" design, with an ageless message. Our God is central!*

**True Story of the Whole World Redemption Initiated (Scene 3: Conquest and Chaos)** is Lesson Seven of the True Story series. The link to Lesson Seven Study Guide is available on the Mennonite Church of Normal website at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/true-story-of-the-whole-world/>. Also available there (under the Education and Nurture tab) are links to all the lessons, lectures and sermons that have been given so far.

### Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Amy & Jeff Reiman  
West—To Be Announced

Welcome Table  
Ushers

Elfriede Massier  
Steve Stenger; Satchwell Family  
Larry Schrader; Elfriede Massier  
Darrel Miller

Worship Leader  
Accompanist  
Song Leader  
Children's Time  
Scripture

Dorothy Loepp  
Barry Weaver  
Matt Hickman  
Emmanuel Kasongo

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](#).

Conference Newsletters  
[Click the link](#) to read the current *IMC Weekly*: 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](#).

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 Pediatrics/Infusion 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

Go where your best prayers take you.  
*Frederick Buechner*

### Women Pastors

**Retreat April 17-19, 2016** at Camp Menno Haven. The Retreat Leader is someone we know—Lynette Miller. The retreat is for all women pastors—those currently serving within a pastoral role, and those retired from serving in a pastoral role. Brochures with additional information and

Sermon  
Technology  
Toddler Nursery  
Preschool Nursery

Pastor Tim Schrag  
Rick Harnish  
Aaron Petri  
Abby Warfel

### MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Feb 17	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm
Sat Feb 20	Membership Class 10:00 am
Sun Feb 21	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 10:55 am Senior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Tues Feb 23	Staff Meeting 9:30 am Undoing Racism Conversation 7:00 pm
Wed Feb 24	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm
Thu Feb 25	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

### Upcoming Events

**Mennonite Relief Sale, March 18 & 19, Interstate Center, Bloomington.** Many people have already put their name on the sign-up sheets. Thank you.

\*The supply table will be set up this coming Sunday.

\*We have many yard signs. Please pick one up.

\*Pick up the Relief Sale booklets and posters. Give them to friends, businesses, libraries etc.

\*The Dutch Market needs some people to help with stocking items during the day on Friday. Can you help?

\*Meal tickets. For people who had meal tickets before, did you receive new meal tickets in the mail? If not, please let Roelie know.

\*Bring your pennies, nickels and dimes to the My Coins Count bottle.

\*Can you help Henry Dick hanging up signs on Thursday, March 17 and taking them down on Saturday, March 19? See sign-up sheets.

*Questions? Ask Roelie Homan or Marcia Rossi*

**2016 Women's Retreat** Women of all ages are invited to come away to Menno Haven on April 22-23, 2016 for "Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity", a retreat co-sponsored by Illinois Conference and Illinois Mennonite Women. Led by Pastor Kim Litwiller, women will learn more about God, the Ultimate Creator, and will be offered opportunities to nurture creativity through simple crafts, doodling, collage, and more. The \$50 registration fee includes food, lodging, and a participant's guide. Brochures were placed into mailboxes last Sunday, with additional copies available on the narthex table. Questions? See Shannon Unzicker for more information.

### Noteworthy Items

**Camp Menno Haven** The online registration for Menno Haven Summer Camp is officially online and open! It can be found at <http://www.mennohaven.com/summer-camps.html> If you are interested in coming to camp this summer please register! There is a discount if you are registered and paid by March 7th and you get a free t-shirt if registered and paid by May 2! The summer brochures are also online and will be mailed out soon. This year our theme comes from **John 10:1-18 Who is your Shepherd?**

**Camp Scholarships** Parents, as you fill out your child's registration form for attendance at summer camp at Friedenswald or Menno Haven remember to subtract \$65 from your payment to camp; this amount is covered by camperships provided by our church to every child of the congregation. Include a note to the camp in this regard with your payment.

**Maple Lawn** sincerely thanks those members from each Maple Lawn Association Church who

registration are available on the Entrance Table.

### Building Use

Thursday, February 18,  
6:00 pm-9:00 pm Hands All  
Around Quilt Guild will be  
holding a quilting  
mentoring event.

Saturday, February 20,  
2:00 pm-4:00 pm Home  
Extension Women's Club  
will be sponsoring a Tea in  
the Atrium and Fellowship  
area.

The organ will be tuned on  
Wednesday, Feb 24.

supported the ML Association Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser on Saturday, January 30. It was a great blessing how the churches came together by providing chili, decorating tables, volunteering to serve, clean up and attend the event. The evening's fundraiser brought in \$4,135 which will go to "Project Kitchen Aid" (renovating the Health Center kitchen). This project could only be done through donated dollars. Maple Lawn is tremendously blessed by all the donors and supporters. Roanoke Mennonite Church won the votes for the best tasting chili and favorite decorated theme table.

*With Sincere Appreciation and Thanks, Maple Lawn Administration*

**Thank you** Dear Church Family, we deeply appreciate all your words of comfort and caring acts to us during the past weeks. Thank you. *Elfriede Massier and Larry Schrader*

### From Mennonite Central Committee

**MCC Borderlands Learning Tour:** We welcome you to join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) on a learning tour designed to bring awareness to the issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place on May 25-29 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information, including a tentative schedule and online registration, visit [mcc.org/borderlands-tour](http://mcc.org/borderlands-tour)

Pastor Tim Schrag  
Senior Pastor  
[tim@normalmennonite.org](mailto:tim@normalmennonite.org)

Pastor Matt Hickman  
Youth and Family Life  
[matt@normalmennonite.org](mailto:matt@normalmennonite.org)

Pastor Jane Roeschley  
Worship and Lay Ministries  
[jane@normalmennonite.org](mailto:jane@normalmennonite.org)

Lynn Reha  
Administrative Assistant  
[church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org)