



Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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

February 24, 2016

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

A clean house is the sign of a broken computer.

A TV can insult your intelligence, but nothing rubs it in like a computer.

When I call a family meeting I turn off the house Wi-Fi and wait for them all to come running.

Happy Birthday!

Bess Desch 2/27
Lorene Busenitz 3/1
Loren Moshier 3/1
Hannah Brown 3/2
Bryce Nester 3/2
Lily Driscoll 3/3
Jeremy Haab 3/3

Happy Anniversary!

None this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

*Cal Hubbard

*Russ Oyer

*Holly Nester

Detweiler

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

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

Worship with us this Sunday, February 28

The title of the sermon is *God's Rest* and is based on these two scriptures:

Joshua 1:13-15 and Hebrews 3:18-4:2. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "It is fruitful to also read I Kings 8:56-51, looking references to 'rest'."

True Story of the Whole World *Redemption Initiated: The Time of the Kings* (Lesson 8) is this week's Adult and Teen Christian Education lesson. PLEASE NOTE:

True Story participants - apologies! No Scripture was listed on the Study Guide (Lesson 8) for February 28. Here are the scriptures that should have been listed: I Samuel 8:5-22, I Chronicles 17:1-15; I Kings 12 (sample of tribal strife and idolatry). --- Pastor Schrag

The link to *Redemption Initiated: The Time of the Kings* (Lesson 8) 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.

Scripture Focus We begin our worship service with a Scripture Focus each week that comes from the congregational study of the Bible in which we are currently engaged. Each worship service is based on the lesson from the previous week's Sunday School study.

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 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:

The Ruins of Jericho (Joshua 6:10-21 and Hebrews 11:30) There are several minor variations in this pattern, but all feature four triangles surrounding a center square. This simple pattern was a ranking favorite among early colonists; all the children were familiar with the story of the ancient city so miraculously destroyed when attacked by Joshua and his men.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Doris & Ken Shoemaker

West—To Be Announced

Welcome Table

Nancy Fisher

Ushers

Terry Wiebenga; Mark Roeschley

Adam Augspurgen; Caleb Augspurgen

Worship Leader

Pastor Matt Hickman

Accompanist

Lydia Hedberg

Song Leader

Glenn Wilson

Children's Time

Melika Hershberger

Scripture

Nathan Miller

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Rick Harnish

Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missonal 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

I began to trust the questions themselves to lead me beyond answers to understanding, beyond practice to faith. *Joan Chittister*

Building Use

Hands All Around Quilt Guild will be using

- Sanctuary, Thursday March 3 5:30-9:00 pm
- Atrium & Fellowship Area, Friday March 4 8:00 am-4:00 pm
- Atrium & Fellowship Area, Saturday March 5 8:00 am-4:00 pm

LOST & FOUND LAST

CHANCE Are you missing a wooly hat? Pink water bottle? Small silver ring? Those items and MORE have been in the Lost and Found (under the South Mezzanine stairs) for many weeks. They are now

Toddler Nursery
Preschool Nursery

Kristi Hoffman
Holly Zehr

MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Feb 24	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm
Thur Feb 25	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sat Feb 27	Membership Class 10:00 am
Sun Feb 28	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 Homebuilders 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Tues Mar 1	Staff Meeting 9:30 am Pastoral Council 6:00 pm
Wed Mar 2	True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Homebuilders, Sunday, Feb. 28, 6:45 p.m., Community Room. Program: "Growing fish, herbs and vegetables using aquaponics" by Mr. Harston. Aquaculture describes fish in a closed system. Hydroponics is the growing of plants. Aquaponics is the growing of both in the same system. Mr. Harston has done this for many years and has a power point presentation with pictures. Everyone is welcome.

Mennonite Relief Sale, March 18 & 19, Interstate Center, Bloomington. Where can you help?

*Dutch Market - Friday: need several people for stocking during the day.

*Dutch Market - Friday: still has many openings for checkout and stocking.

*Dutch Market - Saturday: 2 people for checkout, 9:00-11:30 a.m.

1 person for checkout, 11:30-2:00 p.m.

3 people for stocking, 11:30-2:00 p.m.

*Chicken/Fish dinners: need people from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

*Pancakes & Sausage serving - Saturday: need people from 5:30-8:30 a.m.

*Pick up the Dutch Market information sheet. Pies and baked goods need a price and ingredient label.

*Meal tickets: like to give meals tickets to friends, colleagues & family? Put your name on the sign-up sheet.

*Help distribute the Relief Sale booklets and posters. Pick up a yard sign.

*Need 5 new items for the auction.

*March 13: display table for all the arts & craft items. All items will be boxed that day.

*Want to buy a tractor? See the information sheet on the sign-up table.

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

Words to Junior Choir Anthem On Sunday, February 21, the Junior Choir sang *The Good Samaritan* during worship. They had written an additional verse to make it a more "local" song. The words are below. Thank you, Junior Choir, for blessing our worship.

packed up and ready to go to Goodwill on Monday, February 29. Please stop by on Sunday to claim your items.

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.

2016 Directories and Hospitality Schedules will be in your mailboxes on Sunday. Please email or phone [Lynn Reha](#) by Thursday noon with any last-minute changes for either of those documents.

LIGHTS! If your activity is the last one in the building in the evening, please turn out the lights. How do you know if you are the last one in the building? If the sign *Please Use the West Door* is up, then the custodian is finished and you should turn out the lights.

Love the Lord with all your heart.
Love the Lord with all your mind.
Love your neighbor as yourself,
And to everyone be kind.

A man on his way to Jericho
Was left by thieves to die by the road.
A priest came along and passed him by,
A Levite saw the man and left him to die.
But then came a good Samaritan
To help the needy man,
And as the law was written,
He followed God's command.

(Verse the Jr. Choir wrote)
A girl on her way to Bloomington
Was left by thieves to die by the road,
A Brit came along and passed her by,
A Frenchman saw the girl and left her to die.
But then came a Muslim woman
To help the needy girl,
And as the law was written,
She followed God's command.

From Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

Greetings! The following is a note of thanks to your congregation for your generous support of MCC in 2015.

We at Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support. Thanks to you, our friends and supporters at **Mennonite Church of Normal**, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and material resources, your congregation contributed **\$19,512.88** in 2015.

We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Whether in Syria, Nepal, Nigeria, Colombia or Appalachia, your support is sharing God's love and compassion. Thank you! *Krista Dutt, MCC Great Lakes*

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