



Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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

March 16, 2016

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

Today's Chuckle

(Thanks to Rich Willmarth for the jokes.)

Venison for dinner again?
Oh deer!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

Happy Birthday!

Gerry Schrock 3/19
Anna Driscoll 3/20
Alexa Hoffman 3/22
Robert Kauffman 3/25

Happy Anniversary!

None this week

Prayer Requests

Prayer is requested for:

*Health concerns for:

*Lena Driscoll's friend with cancer

*Bob Ramseyer (Cindy Ropp's uncle)

*Deborah Spacek

*Permanent placement for Joe and Mary's Jantze's foster child Israel

*Leo & Bess Desch and daughter Bambi Morrison's MDS service week in Lusk, WY

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, March 20

This sermon title is *Doing What Comes Naturally* and is based on Luke 4:1-13. Pastor Tim Schrag asks, "I think it likely Satan tempts us most successfully, by inviting us just do what seems natural and normal, without pausing to reflect on deeper truths. What do you think?"

True Story of the Whole World *The Kingdom of God* (Lesson 11) is this week's Adult and Teen Christian Education lesson. The link to *The Kingdom of God* (Lesson 11) 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:

Star of Bethlehem - Stars are probably the single most popular design chosen by quilters. This design originated in Europe. There are fourteen different versions named Star of Bethlehem. This particular design is also known as Star of the Magi and Star of Jerusalem, also appropriate names. Matthew 2:1-2

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

South—Mary Ann King, Kristen Sand

West—Mary Jantze

Welcome Table

Hazel Yoder

Ushers

Lotus Hershberger, Glenn Wilson,
Ross Hershberger; Wesley Hershberger

Worship Leader

Darvis King

Accompanist

Denise Hedberg

Song Leader

Cindy Ropp

Children's Time

Darrel Miller

Scripture

JB Ponnou-Delaffon

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Technology

Caleb Augspurger

Toddler Nursery

Nancy Fisher

Preschool Nursery

Jonah King

MCN Events This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Mar 16

True Story Leaders 7:00 pm

Thur Mar 17

Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sun Mar 20

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

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 Progressive Care 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

I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things. *Mother Teresa*

Please note

The Student Mutual Aid Program is sponsoring Care Packages for our current college students. The boxes will be available in the Atrium from Sunday, March 20 to Monday, March 28.

MCN Relief Sale meal

For several years MCN had held a Relief Sale meal to honor the volunteers on Sunday following the Relief Sale. We will not be holding that this year because of the proximity to Easter and the Easter breakfast.

18th Annual Habitat Love Thy Neighbor

Junior High Youth Group 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Staff Meeting 9:30 am

Tues Mar 22

Upcoming Events

58th Mennonite Relief Sale, March 18 & 19, Interstate Center, Bloomington.

*The Sale starts Friday at 4:30 p.m.

*Please put the unbaked pie crusts in the church refrigerator by **7:00 p.m. Thursday evening**. We got all 50 crusts!

*All baked goods, pies and all other items should be at the church **no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday**.

*The Dutch Market still needs a few people on Friday for stocking and check-out, 4:00-6:30 p.m. and 6:30-9:00 p.m..

*Meet the Mennonites booth needs 1 person on Friday, 5:00-7:00 p.m. and 1 person on Saturday from 7:00-9:00 a.m.

*Need 1 person to serve the chicken/fish dinner on Friday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

*Help Henry Dick set up signs on Thursday and taking them down on Saturday.

*Each year we donate 15 meal tickets to the Jesus House. So far we have only 3 tickets.

*Please bring the **yard signs** back to the church and put them in the library. They can be used next year.

Questions? Ask Roelie Homan or Marcia Rossi

Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service - Thursday, March 24, 7 pm Come worship with us as we remember Jesus' last meal with his friends on the night before he died. Maundy is the Latin word for command. That is the night when Jesus gave his Disciples the command to "love one another." This service includes scriptures, prayer, quiet music, Communion and the voluntary opportunity to practice foot washing, an ancient Anabaptist tradition that helps us remember to serve one another as Jesus served.

Easter Sunday Breakfast

Although you are being bombarded right now with requests for volunteering and contributing to the up-coming Mennonite Relief Sale, there is another date looming that also needs your attention. The weekend right after the Relief Sale is Easter—as early this year as it can possibly be, March 27.

There will be a congregational breakfast before the Easter worship service. All are invited. The planning committee is asking for help with food, set-up and clean up. If you can bring a breakfast casserole or coffeecake, cinnamon rolls, or muffins, please let the planners know now. Also additional help is needed with set up and clean up, so volunteers would be appreciated. Volunteer now to bring food and/or to help by sending e-mail to Leanne Schertz, schertz2@mtco.com, or Gerry Schrock, gschrock@mtco.com.

Here's a suggestion. You can buy a coffee cake or pan of rolls at the Dutch Market and keep it in your freezer in preparation for bringing it along to the Easter breakfast! Plan now to attend with the whole family. *Leanne Schertz, Fellowship Committee Chair*

Red Cross Blood Drive April 2 8:00 am until noon. Please go to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/rcbmobile/drive/chooseDonationTime.jsp> to sign up. A current paper schedule will be available in the Library each Sunday, so you can sign up there also.

Save the Date: Fellowship Meal on May 15 followed by Congregational Gathering. The main agenda for the Congregational Gathering is a presentation by the Church Board on their activities over the past 15 months. Look for instructions about the meal in upcoming Midweek Connection editions.

Family Fun Night Wednesday, April 13 5:15-7:30 Family Fun Night is a chance for your family to set aside one night in the midst of your active, everyday week together. Think food, faith and fun! The theme for this evening will be the Parable of the Sower, "Jesus Sprouts." We plan to eat around 5:30 or whenever you arrive. We'll have a brief "lesson", followed by family activities and wrapping up by 7:30.

Family Fun Nights are for families! All family members are welcome to attend, but activities

Choir Concert

This is an annual fundraiser to help build another home in McLean County for a family who dreams of homeownership. We hope you will join us to sing in the concert or come and enjoy the concert!—*Carol Kuester*

Rehearsals will be Saturdays, March 19th, April 2nd, April 16th from 9am - Noon
Dress Rehearsal will be Saturday, April 30th from 9am - Noon
The 2016 Concert will be Sunday, May 1st from 3 - 4:30 pm

All rehearsals and the concert will be at Wesley United Methodist Church in Bloomington (502 E Front Street).

Pastor Tim Schrag
Senior Pastor
tim@normalmennonite.org

are geared for children three years through about fifth grade. You can modify the activities and schedule of the evening to meet the needs of your family. ALL ARE WELCOME and encouraged to attend, even if you just want to join us for supper.

Items from the Wider Church

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) Great Lakes has extended the deadline until March 21 for applications for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the program, staff and budget of the Great Lakes region. This person will represent MCC Great Lakes within the broader MCC system, within the constituent churches of the region and actively collaborate with other MCC entities. The position includes involvement in everything from fund raising to program development to informal conversations to policy discussions. For more information visit serve.mcc.org or contact Susan Wadel at 717-552-5785.

West Coast MCC Global Anabaptist Peacebuilding seminar June 16-24 in Fresno, California for students 18 - 26 years old. \$300 includes all expenses. Four tracks - creation care, migration, food security, and restorative justice with integration of shalom and peacebuilding concepts. More details - <http://mcc.org/get-involved/events/global-anabaptist-peacebuilders-gap-institute> This is especially helpful for students who did not get the opportunity to attend a Mennonite college. Joshua Landis from Sterling Illinois participated last year.

MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering: As alumni or interested friends of Mennonite Central Committee, you are warmly invited to join us for an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6:00 pm on Sunday, April 17, at East Peoria Mennonite Church, 125 N. Norwood Place in East Peoria. Special guest speakers will be Ben & Beth Weisbrod, current MCC Area Directors for Central and West Africa. Please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to KristaDutt@mcc.org.

Pastor Matt Hickman
Youth and Family Life
matt@normalmennonite.org

Pastor Jane Roeschley
Worship and Lay Ministries
jane@normalmennonite.org

Lynn Reha
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