



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 1, 2017

Worship with Us This Sunday

March 8, 2017

The Scripture for this Sunday is Matthew 4:1-11. The title of the sermon is "...in all things for good." Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "One wonders how Jesus' ministry would have unfolded if he had never been challenged or tested."

The hymns are *I sing the mighty power of God* (HWB 46), *Jesus, tempted in the desert* (STS 36), and *What a friend we have in Jesus* (HWB 573)

Communion will be served this Sunday. 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.

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. Your gift will be gratefully received, and carefully distributed.

The Lenten Drama Group will be presenting the Scripture this week and throughout Lent. Participants for this Sunday will be Wayne & Lois Hochstetler, Deborah Spacek, Joe Warfel, Wilma Dyck, Abby Warfel, & Joe Culpepper as director.



Prayers

Please pray for increasing health for:
Amanda Dick's father-in-law

Please pray for divisions to be healed in our communities.



Congratulations and Welcome!

Marlphonsia (Tawyna) and Emmanuel Kasongo welcomed their new daughter, Marjorie Weaver Kasongo, into the world at 10 am on Tuesday, February 28. We thank God for you, Marjorie!

This Week at 805 S Cottage

Wed Mar 1	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
Thur Mar 2	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm
Sun Mar 5	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am (Communion) Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am Junior High Youth 5:00 pm Senior High Youth 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:00 pm
Mon Mar 6	Bridge of Hope Neighboring Group 6:00 pm
Tues Mar 7	Staff Meeting 10:30 am Church Board Retreat 6:00 pm



Lenten Drama Group Rehearsal 6:30 pm

Wed Mar 8 Peace & Justice Committee 5:00 pm

Thur Mar 9 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
 IMC Pastor-Peer Meeting 9:00 am
 Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
 Cluster Leaders 6:30 pm

Serving This Sunday



Greeters	South: Larry & Louise Reeser West: Mary Jantze
Welcome Table	Clair Dyck
Ushers	Eric Miller; Andreas Unzicker Chellie Miller; Nathan Miller
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Marge Weaver
Song Leader	Glenn Wilson
Scripture	Scripture Drama Team
Children's Time	Jenna Liechty Martin
Accompanist	Denise Hedberg
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Courtney Yoder
Preschool Nursery	Claire Dyck



Birthdays

Happy Birthday to

Lorene Busenitz March 1
 Loren Moshier March 1
 Hannah Brown March 2
 Bryce Nester March 2
 Hannah Wright March 2
 Lily Driscoll March 3
 Jeremy Haab March 3
 Matt Hickman March 5
 Connie Satchwell March 6
 Olivia Petri March 7
 Laura Dick March 8
 Andy Reeser March 9
 Judy Brown March 10



Ash Wednesday Worship Wednesday, Tonight 7 pm

As we enter into the season of Lent, our Ash Wednesday Meditative Service is a time of scripture & singing, confession & reflection, and the opportunity for marking with ashes.

Illinois Young Adult Events

March 19, Young adults with gather near Morton around 3pm. Contact Leah at 309-339-3719 or leahroseroth@gmail.com for directions.

April 30, Young adults are welcome to meet at Great Oaks Camp in Lacon, IL to try out their new high ropes course from 2-6pm. Please RSVP at www.GreatOaksCamp.org <<http://www.GreatOaksCamp.org>> under the "Open House RSVP" button.

Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend retreat May 5th-7th at Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center where we will seek to understand God and ourselves better. Our speaker, Asia Frye, will help us explore how we as women are made in God's own image, and how we can model ourselves after God. We will embrace what it means for us to be women, and encourage each other on our journeys. Our program and input will conclude on Saturday afternoon. However, participants who desire additional time to rest and recharge are welcome to stay through Sunday morning.

Asia Frye is a retreat speaker and former youth pastor from Hillsboro, Kansas, where she teaches at Tabor College. She will graduate with a MDiv from AMBS this spring, and is the coordinator for Junior Youth Convention in Orlando next summer. She is fascinated by how the Bible empowers women, and how, as women, knowing ourselves helps us to better know God. Asia is a mother and wife who likes gardening, rock climbing, and nerdy board games

Relief Sale

59th Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, March 17-18, Interstate Center, Bloomington.
"Sharing God's Love and Compassion!"

Still looking where you can help? Only 2 1/2 weeks left until the Sale.

*Dutch Market: Friday, stocking, 2:00-4:00 p.m. - need 1 person

6:30-9:00 p.m. - need 2 people

checkout, 6:30-9:00 p.m. - need 9 people

*Dutch Market: Saturday, stocking, 9:00-11:30 a.m. - need 1 person

11:30-2:00 p.m. - need 3 people

checkout, 7:00-9:00 a.m. - need 2 people

11:30-2:00 p.m. - need 2 people

*Pies: more pies are needed, any kind.

*Need more coffee cakes, sweet rolls, dinner rolls, homemade angel food cakes etc.

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

*Pancakes & sausage serving: Saturday, 5:30-8:30 a.m. - need 8 people

- *Chicken/Fish dinner serving: Friday, 4:00-6:00 p.m. - need 7 people
 - *Children under 16 years of age are not allowed to serve any kind of food.
 - *Hanging up signs: Thursday, 10:00-2:00 p.m. at the Interstate Center - need 9 people
 - *Recycling: Saturday, 3:00-4:00 p.m. - need 4 people
 - *Peace & Justice: need 1 person from 9:00-12 noon
 - *Meet the Mennonites: need people in all time slots
 - *March 12: display table for all arts and craft items. All items will be boxed up that day.
 - *Transportation: need a few people who will bring the food and arts & craft items to the Interstate Center on Friday between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.
- Questions? Ask Roelie Homan or Gerry Schrock

Needed: Someone to spearhead the collection of cardboard for recycling at the relief sale. You'd be inheriting a well-thought-through process developed by Juergen and Meredith. It will require a few contacts prior, and several hours of work, mainly on the day of the sale (Saturday, March 18). Some of the MYF youth are interested in collaborating.

Upcoming Events

- March 4** Central District Conference Regional Meeting in Champaign
- March 17-18** Illinois Relief Sale
- March 24** Bethel College Choir Concert
- March 31-April 1** Illinois Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly
- May 5-7** Illinois Mennonite Conference Women's Retreat at Menno Haven
- June 22-24** Central District Conference
- July 4-8** Mennonite USA Assembly and Convention

Interested in Volunteering at MCC Thrift Shop in Eureka?

Our congregation has had an inquiry from the Et Cetera Shop in Eureka -- which sends thousands of dollars each year to MCC -- about whether there are individuals in our congregation that would like to become part of their Board or their volunteer corps. Does that interest you? If so, please be in touch with Pastor Jane.



Please save the date of April 1 for a Red Cross Blood Drive at Mennonite Church of Normal. Online Scheduling is available by clicking [here](#). A sign-up sheet is available in the MCN Library.

Directory Update

First of all, a BIG THANK YOU to Leroy Loepp who stapled, folder and flattened the 2017 Directories. That was a big job and he volunteered cheerfully. Second, I will wait a week so folks

can tell me about any further changes, and then print some additional Directories. I know that some people like to have one at home and one at work and one in the car. Those should be available by March 19. *Lynn Reha*

Here are four updates to make in the Directory that you received last week. Please mark your current 2017 Directories accordingly.

**Gabriella Harnish 309-423-2700

**Adam Augspurger adamaugs59@gmail.com

**Darrell Nester dsnest5@gmail.com

**Ruth and Joe Haney Please use only the home phone (land line).

Position Announcement

The Job Description and Application for the position of Office Manager (formerly Administrative Assistant) is posted on the MCN website at <http://www.normalmennonite.org/wp-admin/customize.php?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.normalmennonite.org%2F> There are also copies of the Job Description and Application on the Entrance Table.

Thank you

Part of MCN's Non-Local giving includes donations to Mennonite Mission Network. We received a letter from Mennonite Mission Network this past week, thanking us. Here is, in part, what it said, Thank you, Mennonite Church of Normal, for giving \$45,132.96 to Mennonite Mission Network in 2016! Our donations, prayers, participation and enthusiasm for mission play a vital role in our global church. Thank you for doing your part.



Building Use

Hands All Around Quilt Guild

Board Meeting 5:30 pm, Thursday, March 2

General Meeting in Sanctuary 6:30 pm Thursday, March 2

Workshop in Fellowship Area and Atrium Friday-Saturday March 3-4, 8:00 am-4:00 pm

Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalists

Wednesday, March 8 7:00 pm

Conference Newsletters

[Central District Conference \(CDC\) Focus](#) The CDC Focus is now available in this online format. Just click the picture of the newsletter or the title. A copy is available on the Entrance Bulletin Board. Also available is the [CDC Reporter](#). [Click the link](#) to read the current IMC Weekly: Illinois Mennonite Conference (IMC) Conference Ministers Michael Danner & Kim Litwiller's weekly message to IMC churches. Also, the latest copy of [Missional Crossroads](#) is available.



Thought for the Day

The ecological teaching of the Bible is simply inescapable: God made the world because He wanted it made. He thinks the world is good, and He loves it. It is His world; He has never relinquished title to it. And He has never revoked the conditions, bearing on His gift to us of the use of it, that oblige us to take excellent care of it. *Wendell Berry*



Today's Chuckle

I must be following my diet too closely. I keep gaining on it.

Two trucks, loaded with thousands copies of Roget's Thesaurus, collided as they left a New York publishing house last Thursday, according to the Associated Press. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied...

I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day.