



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

August 22, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, August 26

Dr. Sara Wenger Shenk, the President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) will give the message this Sunday. The sermon title is *Beauty That Saves the World*, and the Scripture is Isaiah 52:7-10 and Matthew 5:1-16. Dr. Wenger Shenk comments, "In a season of environmental calamities, unprecedented immigration of desperate people, ugly public discourse, and racialized violence many of us feel a deep longing for beauty: the beauty of nature, the beauty of Scripture, the beauty of community, the beauty of Jesus Christ. What is it about beauty that saves us; that can save the world? An encounter with Beauty, "far from damaging our capacity to attend to problems of injustice, intensifies the pressure we feel to repair existing injuries." Faith communities that are deeply enchanted by Christ's beauty can awaken a cynical, jaded world to aspects of the gospel that have been too rarely noticed. A beautiful expression of the kingdom will excel in these eight things: welcoming the poor in spirit, comforting those who mourn, esteeming the meek, hungering for justice, extending mercy, having a pure heart, making peace, enduring persecution... 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, your God reigns.'"

Hymns this Sunday

All Creatures of Our God and King, v 1-5 - HWB 48

Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God - STS 121

Longing for Light - STJ 54

Lift Every Voice and Sing - HWB 579

Prayers

Please pray for

*Ron and Leanne Schertz, Ron is scheduled for 5-bypass surgery on Thursday, September 6th in Elkhart.

*Wilma Dyck's daughter Sue and her husband Brad. Brad was diagnosed with early-onset dementia at age 55.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

- Thur Aug 23 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
- Sun Aug 26 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
- Mon Aug 27 Personnel Policy Task Force 5:30 pm
- Tue Aug 28 Peace and Justice Committee 5:00 pm
- Thur Aug 30 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Roger & Linda Clemmons
	West: Mary Ann King
Welcome Table	David Voegtlin
Ushers	The Darvis King Family, David & Gabriella Harnish
Sermon	Dr. Sara Wenger Shenk
Worship Leader	Joe Culpepper
Song Leader	Barry Weaver
Scripture	Shannon Neely
Children's Time	Holly Zehr
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Kristy Hoffman
Preschool Nursery	Beth Reeser



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Isabel Franks 8/26
Dorothy Loepp 8/27
Randy Zehr 8/27
Alice Swift 8/29
Joe Dick 8/30
D. Paul Miller 8/30
Victor Belzer 9/1
Lena Driscoll 9/1

Keith Nafziger 9/1

Happy 62nd Anniversary to Ron and Jo Ropp on August 26
Happy 63rd Anniversary to Bob and Mary Kauffman on August 28
Happy 59th Anniversary to Leo and Bess Desch on August 30
Happy 4th Anniversary to Henry Dick and Sophie Charles on August 30
Happy 49th Anniversary to Cal and Vivian Hubbard on August 30
Happy 62nd Anniversary to Lloyd and Aldine Combs on September 1



You're Invited!

Dessert with Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary President, Sara Wenger Shenk

Date: Saturday August 25, 2018

Time: 6-7:30pm

Location: Mennonite Residential Community Building at Mennonite Church of Normal
805 Cottage Ave, Normal, IL 61761

Come for Desserts and coffee followed by an opportunity to hear how God is at work at and through AMBS!
Please RSVP to Aaron Yost at ayost@ambs.edu by Wednesday August 22, 2018 so that we know how much dessert to order.



Wesley United Methodist Distribution Ministry - paper goods

In partnership with Midwest Food Bank, every third Saturday of the month from 9:30am-11:30am in the old Chase Bank building across the street from WUMC (502 East Front Street, Bloomington, IL 61701), anyone is welcome to come. Wesley gives away paper products of all kinds (a month supply at a time) - toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper plates, Kleenex, etc.

Clients will be asked for name, how many family members, and who referred them. Come earlier than later - they tend to run out.



Children's Sunday School Meet and Greet!

This Sunday after the worship service, come to the pre-school nursery room (the room just off of the sanctuary) to meet your child's Sunday School teacher and prayer partner. All parents with children age 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend. Parents with new 3 year olds can bring them, and all older children will participate in the fine arts Sunday School class.



FINE ARTS SUNDAY ~ AUGUST 26 2018

We are looking forward to having our young people share their time and talents during the Sunday School hour

this Sunday, August 26! This will be done "open house" style--participants with their instruments, talents, artwork, hobbies will be spread out through the Jr. High and High School classrooms for attendees to walk through and see. (Adults will still have Sunday School that day but are invited to visit before and after). We are also looking for some volunteers to help the younger children experience the exhibits (also a great job for any youth that did not sign up to share!) If you are available to volunteer OR if you have a youth/child that would like to share something but has not signed up yet, please email Shelly King at snking2002@yahoo.com.



SOLAR PROJECT INFORMATION SESSION: #2

When: Sunday, Aug 26 at 11:00 & again at 12:00 for those who wish to attend Sunday School classes.

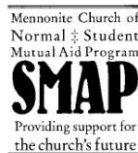
Where: MCN Sanctuary

Three topics: 1. Update on StraightUp Solar proposal.

2. Roof replacement, perhaps with metal. The roof has significant hail damage.

3. Possible financing options/plans for the solar panels as well as the roof replacement. One option, for part of the project, is the formation of an LLC whose partners would be investors from MCN.

Come, join in to hear an update, ask questions, and provide input to the Solar Working Group before recommendations are finalized.



The Student Mutual Aid (SMAP) Committee would like to remind you that we will be making our fall tuition payments to the Mennonite Colleges and Universities soon. If you could put your contributions in the offering in the next couple weeks that will ensure we have enough funds to cover our pledged portion. Thanks again for the continued support of this awesome program. If there are any questions, see Darvis King.

Offering My Gifts for 2019
Name _____
Thank you for taking the time to complete this annual opportunity to offer your time and talents to the life of our congregation. This information will be kept on file for the next year or two. Committees, Cluster Leaders and staff can review this data when volunteers are needed.
You may or may not be asked to serve in a particular area which you married (Exceptions are noted on the survey.). And when asked, it is always all right to say, "Thanks for asking, but not now."
Please sign and return your form to the church office by September 2, 2018

Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others

These forms were handed out Sunday, August 19, as bulletin inserts. If you were absent, there are copies on the entryway table and they are also [linked](#) on the website. You can also download them here:

[Offering My Gifts for 2019](#)

[Affirming the Gifts of Others for 2019](#)



The sermon from August 19 will not be posted online. It is available through the church office in CD form.

Contact the church office for a copy.



Electronic Sign Update

The comments and opinions received are greatly appreciated. Because of comments and questions received, we did an in-depth review of invoices and learned the following: the initial cost of the sign was \$28,519, not \$42,000. Maintenance since 2013 has been \$8,684, not \$26,000. We also located some original discussion and rationale documents. These are under careful review. Additional comments are certainly welcome. Please send to Lynn at officemanager@normalmennonite.org or Lotus at ldhershb@ilstu.edu.



Ride Needed

Ginette Molino needs a ride to Chicago on Monday, August 27th to meet an appointment with the U.S. Immigration Service to advance the process of her becoming a U.S. Citizen. Her husband, Tshitshi is being sent to Dallas, TX for three days of training in his role as one of the managers the Marriott Hotel from August 27-29. If you are available to do this, please contact John Bertsche.



Family Literacy Child Care -- School Year Volunteer Needed

Our summer volunteers for the Family Literacy Child Care, 12:30-2:00 pm each Wednesday are heading back to school. We need 2 (or 3) volunteers who could serve 1-2 times per month. Please talk to Pastor Jane.



Apartment Needed

If anyone has or knows of a 1 bedroom apartment that would be available in early September, please contact John Bertsche.



Blessing of Our Vocations

At the close of worship on September 2, we will have a Blessing of Our Vocations. Please bring something that Sunday that is a symbol of how you labor and/or serve.



Adult offerings during Christian Education Hour, starting September 9

Welcoming the LGBTQ Community: Biblical Perspectives and Storytelling, taught by Joe Culpepper and Darrel Miller. Depending on size, this class will meet to the left of the kitchen (Room 4) or in the Sanctuary.

God's World and God's People, a study of the book of Genesis, with leading spread among class members. This class will meet in the conference room.

Lectio Divina/Lectio Visio class: contemplative reading of scripture or contemplative gazing of religious art with group interaction and response. Initially led by Lynette Miller. This class will meet under the mezzanine, north end.



Women's Retreat: September 14-16

Hearing Your Voice, Finding Ours

We will lift up women's voices that go unheard or ignored by our world and our churches. Cyneatha Millsaps will lead worships where women from different backgrounds and experiences share their stories of faith - honestly and authentically. In addition to camp activities (pontoon boat rides and nature hikes), we will also have workshops focused on finding new ways to talk together about issues of our day - Migrant Rights, #MeToo, and more.

Worship Leader: Cyneatha Millsaps, MCUSA Women Executive Director

[More Information](#)



Global South Voices Presentation

Will be presenting at the Mennonite Church of Normal at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 24. These voices are coming from El Salvador, Zimbabwe, and Nepal and are working with the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, a collaborative initiative between Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), Goshen College, and Eastern Mennonite University. The three people from El Salvador, Zimbabwe, and Nepal will be sharing their stories about how climate change has affected them and their communities.

This event is sponsored by the Homebuilders and the Outreach and Peace & Justice Committees. I have attached a [flyer for the Global South Voices Speaking Tour](#).

In Peace, Phil Dick, Outreach Committee Chair



The Nursery has a New Look!

Stop in to see the sunshine. A big thanks to Charlotte Hedberg for sharing her artistic talent to make the nursery a more welcoming space.



School Supply Kits

Mennonite Women will start collecting supplies for school kits, and will be collecting them during the months of July and August. The supply list, including two new items, is below.

- 4 spiral or perforated pages notebooks (ONE SUBJECT) notebooks (8.5x10.5 inches and 70 sheets)
- 8 new UNSHARPENED pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality, must indicate 30 cm)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes)

There are bags provided in the Atrium.



Partners in Healing

MCN has been asked to pray for the Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit at Advocate BroMenn in 2018. Located on 5 West, Advocate BroMenn's 39-bed Medical-Oncology Specialty Unit serves patients with conditions such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, pneumonia, gastrointestinal problems, cancer, open wounds and sickle cell anemia.

The staff, patients and families who serve or need the services very much appreciate your prayers. In the coming weeks, more specific prayer requests will be shared.



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](#).

Voice of the Day

New Era

God of Love,

You are with us in every transition and change.

As we enter into this new era with excitement

and even some anxiety,

we recall your deep compassion, presence,

and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us.

for the experiences that have brought us to this moment.

for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name. Amen.

From *7 Prayers for Transition* submitted by Mennonite Women USA.



Building Use

Crosswinds Church

August 22, 5:00 pm

Music Recording

August 24, 5:00 pm

Cantus Novus

August 28, 7:00 pm

Crosswinds Church

August 29, 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery.

But, this morning, I accidentally drove by the bakery and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies.

I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, please create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!

God is good!