



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

November 28, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, December 2

The sermon title is *Voices from the Future* and the Scripture is Luke 21:25-36. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "The Bible testifies to an 'assured future' which is in part already here! Other voices lament that the future looks appears fraught with uncertainty and even doom. Which version of the future informs your present-day living?"

Hymns This Sunday

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - HWB 178

Hope is a Candle - STS 15

Christ is Coming! Let Creation - HWB 295

Prayers

Please pray for

*Carol Lou Eisenhardt's brother Bennie was not able to have surgery due to his condition. Prayers for the family as they decide the next steps.

*Ron and Jo Ropp as he better understands his lymphoma diagnosis and treatment.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Nov 29 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sun Dec 2 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am



Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Blood Pressures Taken 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
MYF & JMYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm
Junior Choir 6:00 pm
Youth Choir 6:45 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Mon Dec 3 Personnel Policy Committee 5:30 pm
Thur Dec 6 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sat Dec 8 D. Paul Miller's Memorial Service 4:30 pm

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Steve and Deb Stenger
	West: Ardys Serpette
Welcome Table	Mary Dyck
Ushers	Andy & Beth Reeser, Ben & Caroline Roeschley
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Amy Reiman
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Children's Time	Shannon Unzicker
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Rick Harnish
Toddler Nursery	Erin/JB Ponnou-Delaffon
Preschool Nursery	Beth Reeser



Birthdays and Anniversaries



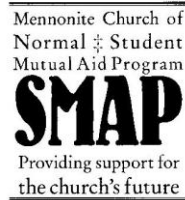
Ruth Marquis 12/4
Adam Valverde 12/4
Reuben Yoder 12/4
Jon Friesen 12/6
Jenell Ulrich 12/7

Happy 36th Anniversary to Darrel and Lynette Miller on December 4



God, the Giver

We are reminded this Advent that as we seek God's righteousness, that God is the Giver of all that we need. Scripture reminds us that, "God will make a righteousness branch sprout from David's line" (Jer33:15). Taking a cue from that scripture, Lee Hertzler created for us a 'righteousness branch' that holds our Advent candles for worship. It is through the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that God gives us in Jesus that we are given what we need to follow God's way in righteousness.



Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP)

The Spring semester payments for our Mennonite college students is quickly approaching. Payments can be placed in offering plate or at the front desk with checks and envelopes designated for SMAP fund. On behalf of the SMAP committee and the college students thank you for the continued support.



Seeking Christmas Garland to Borrow

Pastor Jane is seeking several lengths of artificial Christmas greens garland to use for one evening (Dec 20). If you have something you could loan, please speak to her or send an email jane@normalmennonite.org.



This Sunday is the last to order Coffee and Tea!

The youth at MCN will be selling Menno's Best Coffee and Menno Tea bags this Sunday. Keep warm this winter or gift a piece of the Mennonite world this holiday season. Thanks for helping MCN's youth groups attend Mennonite Church USA's 2019 Convention, as well as supporting Mennonite Church USA's peace and justice work. Your order will be ready on December 16th, just in time for Christmas!



New Pictures for Our Website

Pictures for our updated website will be taken on Sunday, December 2nd. Tiffany Wyse Fisher will be here that Sunday morning and evening, making us look good for a refreshed website that will be available in early 2019. If you have any questions, or do not want your picture on the website, please let me know. Lynn Reha



You're invited to Advent Sunday School Classes!

We'll meet December 2nd and 9th to prepare and Dec. 16th to share with the community what created.

Class options are: Coloring, card making, clay creating, caroling, or Christmas treat making

Sign up in the library or on sign-up Genius. The link is here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080B4BAFA72DA3FF2-advent>



A Further Jazz Holiday

Glenn Wilson will present a Holiday Jazz show at the Normal Theater on Friday December 7th at 7:00 pm. In addition to Glenn's quartet, the IWU string quartet will perform and there will several surprise guests. All tickets are \$5.



Sing-Along Concert of Handel's Messiah

ISU Friends of the Arts invites you to participate in a sing-along concert of Handel's Messiah to celebrate the holiday season. Everyone is welcome, whether to sing or to just listen on Friday evening, December 7, 7:00 p.m. in the ISU Center for the Performing Arts concert hall. Free parking is available in the School Street parking garage directly behind the CPA. Dr. Karyl Carlson, ISU Director of Choral Activities, will conduct and we have arranged for 4 soloists and a 24-piece orchestra. There is no rehearsal for the chorus. Singers need only show up at the venue and bring your own score. If you want to sing but don't have a score, you can download the choruses: <https://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/foa/>. There is no fee to participate; however, we accept free-will donations to support scholarships and study grants for ISU fine arts students. So that we may plan for any configuration of seating, click this link to notify us of how you intend to participate: [Participation Form](#)



Calling all Musicians: Christmas Orchestra

Whether you've been playing for a year or haven't played for years, we want you in our Christmas Orchestra!

All ages playing woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion are welcome. Rehearsals: Sunday, Dec 16 after church, Saturday, Dec 22, 10:30-12:00. Performance in worship on Sunday, Dec 23. If you can participate

CONTACT Marianne Israel or Wesley Hershberger .



Give a kit for Christmas!

From hurricanes and flooding to conflict and drought, MCC is responding to many disasters around the world. This Christmas, why not gather your family and pack a relief kit as a gift to other families whose lives have been disrupted by war or disaster? For more information about relief kit contents and how you can get

involved, visit mcc.org/kits/relief.



Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunities

Monday, January 14, 2019 from 6-8pm

Friday, April 12, 2019 from 6-8 pm

Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 6-8 pm

Friday, November 15 from 6-8 pm

Come join us in a fun evening of service to others at Midwest Food Bank! Anyone 10 yrs or older is welcome. Sign up at [Signup Genius](#) or contact the church office.



Growing More Like Jesus From the Outside In: Transforming Heart and Mind

February 1-3, 2019, Hesston College Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series

How do we live in the way of Jesus - pursuing a life that is deeply soulful and connected to real needs and good news in our world? AVDS 2019 offers a time of spiritual formation that is grounded in community and full of healing and hope in our everyday lives. It seeks to answer the question: Where can we find support to take new risks to practice the way of Jesus together?

We will spend time dwelling deeply in the word, re-examining our values and tending to our own soul in order to live vital counter-cultural lives. Then we can explore together the practical Ninefold Path of the Beatitudes:

EXPLORE the radical life-giving invitation they provide, ENGAGE the dynamic of shared experiments and practices, CREATE SPACE to rest, connect and refresh and COME AWAY with tools/skills to lead others on the journey.

AVDS is pleased to partner with Mark Scandrette, internationally recognized expert in Christian spirituality and founder of ReIMAGINE: A Center for Integral Christian Practice. His recent books include Practicing the Way of Jesus and The Ninefold Path. Scandrette teaches in the doctoral program at Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, Calif.). See a variety of Mark's presentations at markscandrette.com.

Contact Pastor Jane for questions.



Volunteers Needed

Heartland Head Start is looking for people ages 15 and up to help with child care once a month for Policy Council meetings from 6-8pm. The meetings are on the first Wednesday's of the month. They need 4-5 people every month. Please call 309-662-4880 and ask for Erica if you can help.



Alternative Gifts Fair

After counting the final donations, we're happy to report that this year's fair raised \$20,388 (MCC-\$12,380 & AGI- \$8,008) for relief efforts around the world! If you requested project inserts, they will be in mailboxes, along with shopping lists within the next two Sundays. Thanks to all who participated!



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.



Conference Newsletter

[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

"Compassion constitutes a radical form of criticism, for it announces that the hurt is to be taken seriously, that the hurt is not to be accepted as normal and natural but is an abnormal and unacceptable condition for humanness." **Walter Brueggemann**



Building Use

Overeaters Anonymous

December 1, 10:00 am

Al-Anon

December 3, 7:00 pm

Crosswinds Church

December 5, 5:00 pm

HAAQG Meeting

December 6, 5:30 pm

Today's Chuckle



A mother took her daughter Carlene, who was not yet old enough to read, to the eye doctor for a check-up.

The doctor used pictures to help determine how well Carlene was seeing. He showed Carlene a picture of a horse and asked, "How many legs does this horse have?"

Instead of saying the expected answer of "four," Carlene answered, "Same as any other horse!"