

Weekly Calendar

Today	Pre-Service Prayer	9:00 am
	Worship	9:30 am
	CE for Children	10:45 am
	CE for Adults	11:00 am
Mon Dec 24	Church Office Closed	
	Christmas Eve Service	6:30 pm
Tues Dec 25	Church Office Closed	
Thurs Dec 27	Next Man Bible Study	6:15 am

Upcoming Events

The **Christmas Eve Service** is Monday evening, December 24 at 6:30 pm. The Fellowship Committee invites you to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share after the service. Please bring your own plate and take any leftovers home at the end of the evening. We can enjoy cookies during the time of visiting that follows the service.

Please plan to attend a Q&A and discussion time immediately after church on January 13, 2019. A panel of people from the LGBTQ community, all people of faith, will be here to share their stories and answer questions. We, the Process Design Team, see this as an integral step in our church's discernment process and hope many in the congregation will attend. Plans for lunch are in the works. Any questions can be directed to Shelly King (snking2002@yahoo.com) or Joe Culpepper (pepperjetn@aol.com).

EVERYONE is invited to a weekend of fellowship and fun at Camp Friedenswald, January 25-27! Friedenswald is a beautiful retreat in southern Michigan with comfortable, warm lodges to accommodate us. Whether you're looking for social time or solitude, there's something for everyone! Check out the link in the Midweek to sign up and for more details!

Save the Date: Sister Care Seminar: Equipping Women for Healing Ministry is April 5-7, 2019 at Camp Menno Haven. Presenters are Alicia Manning and Hyacinth Stevens. For more information, contact Shannon Unzicker.

Today

All Sharing and Prayer Requests to Pastor Tim During Advent - Please write out or send by email to Pastor Tim all items for sharing and prayer for Sunday worship. There is no open microphone sharing during Advent.

Of Note

High School Essay Contest! The annual MCC U.S. Washington Office essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities. Topics this year include, Gun violence, Immigration, and North Korea. The deadline for submitting essays is January 25, 2019. For more information, visit: mcc.org/itk-essay-contest.

Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP): Just a reminder that the Spring semester payments for our Mennonite college students are 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.

At the end of November, income was about \$6,600 above expenses. FSC is very appreciative for the strong support received!

There are some additional year-end expenses in December such as the MCN portion of fuel & maintenance costs of the jointly owned mower (with MRC) of \$730 this year. Ending in the black will allow us to add to the unrestricted reserve funds and perhaps accomplish other MCN mission goals.

Attendance on December 16 was 158.



Mennonite Church of Normal

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

God, the Giver

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

Mennonite Church of Normal

805 S Cottage Ave – Normal IL 61761

Ph (309) 452-6622

church@normalmennonite.org

www.normalmennonite.org

For our guests

- The guestbook and name tags are at the Welcome Table, as well as a small gift for our first-time visitors.
- There is opportunity for introduction of guests during the pre-service time.
- Large print hymnals and hearing devices are available. Ask a greeter or any one of the ushers.

Caring for our children – Professionally-staffed child care is offered beginning at 9:20 am.

- **Toddler Nursery** for newborns through age 2, including a nursing nook, and crib room.
- **Preschool Nursery** for ages 3-5 (Pre-K), in Room 11.
- **Children’s Time** during worship. Children are invited to come to the platform.

Following Worship – All Invited

- **Christian Education** for adults begins at 11:00 am. See the classes listed below, all are welcome.
- **Caring and Sharing** coffee time is available in the center rear Fellowship Area, all are welcome.

Mennonite Church of Normal

Vision and Mission

The Mennonite Church of Normal is a nurturing Anabaptist community that fosters the Christ-centered spiritual growth of all people. As followers of Jesus, we aspire to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope.

Through our worship, Christian Education for all ages, fellowship, and service to others in love, the Mennonite Church of Normal lives out Anabaptist values of peace, reconciliation, discipleship, and community. Our belief in Jesus calls us to pray, share our faith, work toward peace and social justice, and create a culture of care and generosity.

Christian Education

Children 10:45 am

Gather ‘Round (age 3-1st grade) Room 11

Nursery (newborn – age 3) Room 3

SHINE: Living in God’s Light Curriculum

PreK (3 & 4 year olds) Rooms 13 & 14

Kindergarten & Grade 1 Room 11

Grades 2 Room 12

Grades 3 – 5 Room 9

Youth 10:45 am

Grades 6 – 8 Room 8

High School Rooms 5 & 7

Adults 11:00 am

Adult Bible Study—Our Love for God, class led, Conference Room (Room 2)

Contemplative Space, self led, Room 4 (by Kitchen)

Caring and Sharing, Fellowship Area

Staff

Tim Schrag, Senior Pastor
tim@normalmennonite.org

Jane Roeschley, Associate Pastor
Worship & Lay Ministries
jane@normalmennonite.org

Lynn Reha, Office Manager
officemanager@normalmennonite.org

Lauren Satchwell, Interim Administrative Assistant
Youth Ministry Leader
church@normalmennonite.org

Chris Culbertson, Children’s Ministry Leader
chrisculbertson22@gmail.com

Order of Worship December 23, 2018

God the Giver...the Gift of Love

Today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, we open our hearts to receive the most blessed gift from God, the Giver—Mary’s child, Jesus. This is the greatest of blessings for all people—the Messiah who comes to restore the world. We rejoice that God’s Love to us in Jesus gives us what we need to seek God’s righteous ways.

Community Life		Pastor Tim Schrag
Prelude		Dorothy Loepp
Call to Worship		Amy Reiman
*Hymns		Glenn Wilson
	<i>The First Noel, the Angel Did Say, vs 1,2,3</i>	HWB 199
	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful, vs 1,2,3</i>	HWB 212
*Prayer		
Children’s Time	God, the Giver of Love	Shannon Unzicker
Scriptural Gifts of Love		Roger Clemmons, Clara Unzicker, Rick Reha, Cal Hubbard, Elsa Raab
Offering		
Worship Music	<i>The Poor of the Earth</i>	Randy Zehr, Glenn Wilson
Congregational Prayer		
Worship Music	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem Angels We Have Heard on High</i>	Christmas Orchestra
Scripture Reading	Luke 1:46-55	
Worship Music	<i>Christ is the Morning Star</i>	Adult Choir
Sermon	<i>Echoes from the Past and Future</i>	
*Hymns	<i>Silent Night, Holy Night, vs 1,2,3 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	HWB 193 HWB 201
*Benediction		
*Postlude and Dismissal		

**Please stand as you are able.
Please remember to silence your cell phone.*

Wireless Access MCN_Guest/mcnguest