



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

December 5, 2018

Worship with Us this Sunday, December 9

The sermon title is "Oh, This is Good Enough...Really?" and the Scripture is Luke 1:68-79; 3:1-6, Malachi 3:1-4.

Hymns This Sunday

To Us a Child of Hope is Born - HWB 189
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear - HWB 195
Dona Nobis Pacem - HWB 346
O Little Town of Bethlehem - HWB 191

Prayers

Please pray for

*Jo Ropp, whom after spending three days in the hospital, is returning to McLean County Nursing Home to receive therapy after a pelvic fracture.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Dec 6 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sun Dec 9 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 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 10 Mennonite Women 9:30 am



Financial Stewardship Committee 4:30 pm

Tues Dec 11 Wellness Committee 5:30 pm
Church Board 6:30 pm
Youth Ministry 6:30 pm

Wed Dec 12 Pastoral Council 6:00 pm

Thur Dec 13 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Pastor Peer Meeting 9:00 am
Outreach Committee 5:00 pm
Process Design Team 5:30 pm

Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Vivian & Cal Hubbard
Welcome Table	West: Phil & Alexa Hoffman
Ushers	Marcia Rossi
	Mark Roeschley, Ardys Serpette, Stephanie Nester, & Manny Oyer
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Ben Roeschley
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Children's Time	Mike Company
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Technology	Rick Harnish
Toddler Nursery	Amy Reiman
Preschool Nursery	Jeremy Haab



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Omission: Avery Harnish 12/6
Shari Stalter 12/9
Philip Brandon 12/11
Connie Reeser-Hall 12/11
Abby Warfel 12/12
Amy Arkell 12/14
Roberta Miller 12/14
Julie Musselman 12/14
Rebecca Houtsma 12/15



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.



Nativity Scenes or Creches

While you are pulling out Christmas decorations, please bring your Nativity sets/creches to the church for a display on Sunday, Dec. 16. We will have tables set up with table cloths in the fellowship space, starting Saturday afternoon. Please set up your pieces, and we will all enjoy them Sunday morning. You can take them home after Christian Ed that Sunday. We are especially interested in those that have cross-cultural significance. You might even get to tell the stories of how you have acquired your sets, or what significance they have had for you and your family.



Address Update

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Status of the Standing Seam Metal Roof Project at MCN

The total cost for the standing seam metal roof for the church is \$128,000. The MCN is directly responsible for \$78,000 of this amount. The total insurance payout is going to be \$67,700. The difference of \$10,300 can be covered in several ways. 1. Pay this amount from the Capital Improvement & Repair escrow funds. (Balance at the end for Nov was \$27,715.) 2. Welcome contributions from persons who would like to support the roof project with above budget gifts yet in 2018. 3. A combination of 1 and 2. The FSC would welcome above budget gifts for the roof project. Please designate for "Roof Project".



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. General Admission tickets are \$10 and student/senior prices are \$5.

Anyone who uses the password "Peace" will get a \$5 ticket to the show.



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.



Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service is Sunday 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.



Process Design Team

To add to the congregation's ongoing discussion, the Design Team is gathering policies or statements from other

churches who have gone through a similar discernment process regarding LGBTQIA+ topics. If you are aware of such policies or statements regarding welcoming LGBTQIA+ individuals, membership, marriage, or pastoral care team that you would like to see discussed please share these statements with the team by e-mailing them to Shelly King (snking2002@yahoo.com) by December 28.



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.



Alternative Gifts Fair

With final contributions tallied, this year's fair raised \$20,588 (MCC- \$12,490.50, AGI- \$8,097.50)! Fair statistics will be posted at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday. AGI and MCC inserts can be expected in mailboxes by December 16th, just in time for Christmas mailings.



Volunteer with SWAP

Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a program of MCC Great Lakes, has openings for volunteer groups. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. If your church has never been to one of our SWAP locations, or if it has been a while since you have been to SWAP, please consider forming a group to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065. You can also check out the latest newsletter at <https://mcc.org/media/resources/8302>.



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

"Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths." **Etty Hillesum**



Building Use

Crosswinds Church
December 5, 5:00 pm
HAAQG Meeting
December 6, 5:30 pm
HAAQG Workshop
December 7 & 8
Crosswinds Church
December 12, 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



ALL I NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM SANTA

1. Encourage people to believe in you.
2. Always remember who's naughty and who's nice.
3. Don't pout.
4. It's as much fun to give as it is to receive.
5. Some days it's okay to feel a little chubby.
6. Make your presents known.
7. Bright red can make anyone look good.
8. Wear a wide belt and no-one will notice how many pounds you've gained.
9. If you only show up once a year, everyone will think you're very important.
10. Whenever you're at a loss for words, say "HO, HO, HO!"