



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

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 16, 2019

Worship with Us this Sunday, January 20

The sermon title is *How to Keep Ourselves Out of the Kingdom of God* and the Scripture is Luke 14:15-24. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "How adept we are at doing what we want, and then making up reasons to justify things. In this parable Jesus illustrates the possibility that we self-select ourselves out of the Great Banquet to which we are invited."

Prayers

Please pray for

- *The High School Winter Retreat at Camp Menno Haven this weekend
- *Barry Weaver's sister as she continues treatment for acute leukemia
- *Caitlin Haab as she starts an internship in Cleveland this semester
- *Ron Ropp as his heart was damaged from chemotherapy treatments
- *Jo Ropp as she continues to recover from a hip fracture at McLean County Nursing Home

Congratulations to

- *Joe and Ellen Culpepper who welcomed their first great-grandchild Lucas Elijah Culpepper on January 5th in Kansas City

Condolences to

- *Andy and Denise Hedberg. Andy was unable to attend his father's funeral on January 12th due to the weather
- *Heath and Helen Brandon. Heath's grandma passed away last week. Prayers for Heath's mom and dad, whom she was living with

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Jan 17 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
 Outreach Committee 5:00 pm

Sun Jan 20 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
 Worship 9:30 am
 Christian Education for Children 10:45am
 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
 Congregational Meal 12:00 pm
 Congregational Meeting 1:00 pm
 JMYF 5:00 pm
 IL Mennonite Relief Sale Board Meeting 2:30 pm

Thur Jan 24 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am



Serving This Sunday

Greeters	Rick & Annette Harnish
	West: Steve Stenger
Welcome Table	Caeli Haab
Ushers	Caleb & Adam Augspurger, Pascal Ngongo, & Kristen Satchwell
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	David Warfel
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Denise Hedberg
Scripture Reader	Tshitshi Tshiseleka
Children's Time	Chris Culbertson
Technology	Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery	Erin or JB Ponnou-Delaffon
Preschool Nursery	Stephanie or Duane Nester



Birthdays and Anniversaries



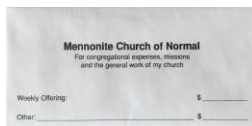
Phylis Versteegh 1/20
 Adah Reiman 1/21
 Vivian Hubbard 1/23
 Ben Jablonski 1/25

Happy 59th Anniversary to Paul and Lynn Chang on January 23



Ushers Needed

Can you offer your gifts in 2019 by volunteering to be a Sunday morning Usher? If you would like to be added to the schedule or have questions on what an Usher does, please contact Lauren in the church office. Email at church@normalmennonite.org or call 309-452-6622. Thanks!



Offering Envelopes

Please let Lauren know if you are running low on offering envelopes in 2019. The envelopes are no longer dated, so feel free to use all of the ones you have. We will not be doing a standard order this year. When you run out, please contact the church office at church@normalmennonite.org or 309-452-6622 and we will give you more. Thanks!



Directory Updates

Stephanie Company's new email address is sbcompany5072@gmail.com.

Rick and Annette Harnish have discontinued their land-line phone.



Movie Viewing

Friday, January 18th, Glenn Wilson and Friends will be at the Normal Theater for a showing of a newly-restored version of Louis Malle's film noir classic Elevator to the Gallows (1958). Miles Davis, on a trip to France in 1957, was asked to compose and perform the score. We will be playing music from the Miles Davis classic album Kind of Blue in concert after the completion of the film. The film is at 7 pm and tickets are \$7/\$5 student, senior.



Congregational Meal

A congregational meal, which is a fundraiser for MCN's Youth Groups to attend Mennonite Church USA's 2019 Convention in Kansas City, will precede the congregational meeting January 20th. Come enjoy a homemade meal by the youth!



2019 Spending Plan and Congregational Meeting

Our next Congregational Meeting is planned for Sunday, January 20th at 1:00 pm. Our agenda will include the 2019 Spending Plan, the Annual Reports, a Design Team 2019 Plan, and a Pastoral Transition Plan. The proposed [2019 Spending Plan](#) and the [2018 Annual Reports](#) are available linked and are also on the Entrance Table, and the website.

Summary of 2018 Spending Plan, Income and Expenses

For 2018 the Spending plan was \$495,356. The income for 2018 was \$494,439. The Expenses for 2018 were \$476,531. This results in a \$17,908 excess of income over expenses!

The Financial Stewardship Committee is very grateful for the generous support offered during 2018. As we enter 2019, we encourage your continued support as the Mennonite Church of Normal seeks to fulfill its mission in Normal, IL and around the world.

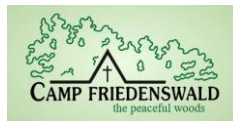
As a result of the recommendation of the Spending Plan Task Force that we have a reserve fund of about 1.75 months expenditures, or about \$72,000, the \$17,908 will be placed in such a reserve fund. That fund is identified on the Balance Sheet as Net Assets: Unrestricted - Prior Years. Current balance for that funds with the \$17,908 included is \$69,575.



Volunteers Needed

Holly Zehr is seeking volunteers to help her set up the Book Fair for Sheridan School on Wednesday, January 23rd from 5:30-7:30 pm. This book fair is a fundraiser for the library. Also--the theme for the book fair is dinosaurs; if you have dino-related items that might be able to be used as decor, please let Holly know. If you'd like to volunteer for set up, please call, text, or email Holly at 309.846.0860 or hmzehr@hotmail.com.

NOTE: PIZZA AND DRINKS PROVIDED FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS!



All Church Winter Retreat

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! More details and sign up

here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-allchurch>



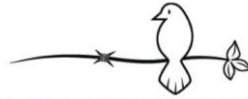
Come, walk with us. . . to God knows where!

You are warmly invited to gather with your CDC brothers and sisters at the upcoming Regional Gathering on February 9, 2019. We'll sing and pray together as we get to know one another. There will be updates about

what is happening in CDC and we will engage with our theme. The Chicago Community congregation will host and share a bit of their congregation's story. We will also hear a story from Asian Mennonite Community Church. Come share your perspectives and ideas and bring a friend. Please know that anyone is welcome to participate.

Regional Gatherings begin with coffee and tea at 9:45 am, and conclude at 3:00 pm.

The Chicago Community congregation has graciously agreed to provide lunch for us. We ask that those eating lunch bring a donation to help cover the costs. **To help them plan for the amount of food needed, please let Emma know if you are attending by Feb 1.** Email: office@mcusacdc.org; Phone 800.662.2264.



christian peacemaker teams

Israel, Palestine, and the West Bank

If you missed Quinn Wilson's presentation on Israel, Palestine and the West Bank, it can be viewed [HERE](#).

If you are interested in helping, you can learn more at www.bdslit.org and www.whoprofits.org on how to B.D.S. (boycott, divestment, sanctions).

The silent auction in the atrium is also continuing this Sunday, Jan. 20th

Here are some of the links talked about in the presentation to learn more or donate (Full list is at the end of the full presentation.)

Grassroots Jerusalem

www.GrassRootsalquds.net

Military Court Watch

www.MilitaryCourtWatch.org

The Good Shepherd Collective

www.GoodShepherdcollective.org

B'Tselem

www.btselem.org

Sabeel (Kumi-Now)

www.Sabeel.org



Partners in Healing

MCN has been asked to pray for the Administration at Advocate BroMenn and Advocate Eureka Hospital in 2019.

These executives make decisions each day of great importance to patient care.

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

"Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery." **Wendell Berry**



Building Use

Crosswinds Church

January 16, 5:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous

January 16, 5:00 pm

HAAQG Mentoring

January 17, 6:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous

January 19, 10:00 am

Al-Anon

January 21, 7:00 pm

Cantus Novus

January 22, 7:00 pm

Crosswinds Church

January 23, 5:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous

January 23, 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



In a country home that seldom had guests, the young son was eager to help his mother after his father appeared with two dinner guests from the office.

When the dinner was nearly over, the boy went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of apple pie, giving it to his father, who passed it to a guest. The boy came in with a second piece of pie and again watched his father give it to a guest.

This was too much for the boy, who said, "It's no use, Dad. The pieces are all the same size."