



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

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

January 30, 2019

Worship with Us this Sunday, February 3

The sermon title is *Rejoicing Always, In Real Life* and the Scripture is Philippians 4:4-14. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "I've sometimes wondered if Paul, who lived a life with many troubles, trials, and vexations, was consistently 'happy'. The word he uses 16 times in Philippians is joy/rejoice. We'll be considering how he, and we, might experience 'joy' in the realities of our life circumstances."

Prayers

Please pray for

- *Ron Ropp, as he deals with heart damage from chemo treatments.
- *Jo Ropp, as she continues to recover at McLean County Nursing Home from a hip fracture.
- *Evelyn Bertsche who has transferred to Heritage Manor in Normal.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

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|-------------|--|
| Thur Jan 31 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Cluster Leaders Meeting 6:30 pm |
| Fri Feb 1 | Process Design Team 6:00 pm |
| Sun Feb 3 | Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45am
Blood Pressures Taken 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
Hospitality Training 12:00 pm
JMYF & MYF Youth Group 12:00 pm |
| Wed Feb 6 | Piano Tuning 12:00 pm |
| Thur Feb 7 | Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Youth Ministry Committee 6:00 pm |



Serving This Sunday



Greeters	Emmanuel Kasongo & Tania Kimbembe
Welcome Table	West: Connie Reeser-Hall
Ushers	Stephanie Nester
	Mike & Stephanie Company, Shannon Neely, & Terry Wiebenga
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	Laura Breneman
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Accompanist	Dorothy Loepp
Scripture Reader	Mary Dyck
Children's Time	Shelly King
Technology	Caleb Augspurgen
Toddler Nursery	David or Gabriella Harnish
Preschool Nursery	Sarah Nichols

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rochelle Augspurgen 2/4
Gabriella Harnish 2/5
Adam Reiman 2/6
Shelly King 2/9
Teresa Novy 2/9



IWU Jazz Festival

The 44th Annual IWU Jazz Festival will kick off on Thursday night, January 31, with a FREE concert at the Normal Theater by Glenn Wilson and the IWU Jazz All-Stars. The concert is at 7 pm. Friday from 1-7 and Saturday from 8-5:30, high school and middle school jazz bands will perform at IWU Presser Hall/Westbrook Auditorium. The IWU Jazz Ensemble will perform at 1 pm on Saturday. All concerts are free and open to the public.



Distress Supper

The 61st Annual Mennonite Relief Sale will be held on March 15-16 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. The theme is "Courageous Compassion in Christ!" The Distress Supper will be held on February 12 at the North Danvers Mennonite Church. Anyone is welcome. **The deadline is February 1.** If you are planning to attend, please let Roelie Homan know, 662-6426 or grhoman@frontier.com.



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.



Illinois Mennonite Conference

Annual Business Meeting

Illinois Mennonite Conference is having their annual business meeting Saturday, February 23, 2019 at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center. If you would like to be a delegate for the Mennonite Church of Normal, please contact Cindy Ropp by email at cropp@ilstu.edu. Registration is due by February 8, 2019. Delegates will receive an agenda, reports and other information by email.



Feeding the Hungry, Together

Join faithful people from all over central Illinois to repackage rice for local food pantries. The Delegate Church Association of Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital, in partnership with the McLean County Interfaith Alliance, is gathering faith communities for a 90-minute rice repackaging project.

When: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Where: Bloomington High School cafeteria, 1202 East Locust St., Bloomington. (Park in the North lot along Empire Street. Enter at the Senior Café doors.)

Who can volunteer: Volunteers of all ages are welcome!

What else: Feel free to bring your favorite rice recipe to share with other volunteers. Email it before the event and we'll assemble a packet of recipes for each attendee.

RSVP: The Rev. Christine McNeal, BCC, senior staff chaplain and coordinator for church relations at Advocate BroMenn and Advocate Eureka. christine.mcneal@advocatehealth.com or 309.268.3504



Ted & Co. Presents

In partnership with Mennonite Disaster Service, Ted & Co presents the original play, The Jesus Stories: Faith, Forks & Fettuccine, in conjunction with a unique auction of buckets, filled with baked goods and other homey items, and fund the tools MDS needs to help restore communities ravaged by natural disaster. All proceeds from the auction benefit the continued work of MDS rebuilding homes and hope for families in need.

Sunday, March 3, 2019 @ 6:00 pm
Metamora Mennonite Church
1393 Mennonite Rd, Metamora, IL

Admission pay-what-you-can. Suggested donation \$10/person
Please come prepared to bid on the auction items!



Camp Friedenswald Spring Creativity Weekend

March 8-10

Art Retreat with Judith Wenig-Horswell, print-making

Develop your skills no matter what level, in the warm company of others in the peaceful woods of Camp Friedenswald. We'll be learning print making using gelatin print process which results in monotypes (single print images), and exploring the beauty of the woods around us. Work, play, and reflect in the company of kindred souls!

Crafting Retreat

Whether you scrapbook, sew, quilt, or craft, we invite you to join us for a relaxing weekend filled with good food and fellowship. Come alone or bring friends or family. The beautiful surroundings of the peaceful woods and the creativity of others at this retreat will inspire you!

Cost \$160. Register today at <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/>



House Blessing with Chalk

A Chalk House Blessing is a way to begin the new year by asking God to bless our homes. It reminds us to invite Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows.

Help yourself to a piece of chalk available in the Atrium.

How to Bless Your Home

1. Using chalk, mark above or beside the home's entryway, or on the front porch steps,

20 + C + M + B + 19

2. The 20 and 19 stand for this year, 2019. The + represents the Cross.
3. The C + M + B has two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi, Caspar, Melchoir and Balthazar. They also are abbreviations for the Latin words that mean, May Christ bless this house (Christus mansionum benedicat).
4. Say, "May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout this year, 2019."
5. Pray,, "Visit, O lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with your love; and grant that we show your love to each other and all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you. Guide us, comfort us, strengthen us and give us your peace. In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen."

With time the chalk will fade. As it does we let the meaning of the written symbols sink into our hearts and become manifest in our words and actions.



Two Chinese Graduate Students Seeking American Home Experience

Pastor Jane has been contacted about two men from China who are doing graduate work at ISU who would like to find a home in which to live so they can better learn English and experience the American way of life. Rent, utilities, and internet to be paid by the student. Email Pastor Jane for further information.



MCC Alumni Reunions

MCC welcomes alumni to host reunions at the Welcoming Place in Akron, Pennsylvania, in 2020 as we celebrate our 100th anniversary. To see if a reunion is already scheduled for the country where you served or to organize a reunion, contact alumni@mcc.org.



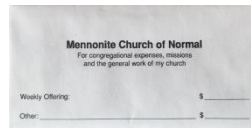
The Little Green Dove Series

New resources are available for exploring and engaging with MC USA's structure. Read MC USA Executive Director Glen Guyton's three-part series on "The Little Green Dove" at <http://mennoniteusa.org/littlegreendove> and watch the new video series at mennoniteusa.org/polityvideoseris.



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!



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

"Set out, pilgrim. Set out into the freedom and the wandering. Find your people. God is much bigger, wilder, more generous, and more wonderful than you imagined." **Sarah Bessey**



Building Use

Crosswinds Church
January 30, 5:00 pm
Overeaters Anonymous
January 30, 5:00 pm
Overeaters Anonymous
February 2, 10:00 am
Al-Anon
February 4, 7:00 pm
Cantus Novus
February 5, 7:00 pm
Crosswinds Church
February 6, 5:00 pm
Overeaters Anonymous
February 6, 5:00 pm
HAAQG Meeting
February 7, 5:30 pm
HAAQG Workshop
February 8-9, 8:00 am

Today's Chuckle



Top problems with working in a cubicle:

- Being told to "think outside the box" when you're in an ACTUAL box all day long.
- That nagging feeling that if you press the right button, you'll get a piece of cheese.
- The walls are too close together for the hammock to work right.