



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 20, 2019

Worship with Us this Sunday, March 24

The sermon title is *Real Water for Real Life* and the Scripture is Isaiah 55:1-9. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "It can be most revealing to consider the analogies between the dangers of physical dehydration, and those of 'spiritual dehydration.'"

Lenten Season Worship

Throughout scriptures for Lent, there is a theme of our human need and how God longs to fulfill and satisfy us as nothing else can. We can find ourselves lost, thirsty or alone. God hears our cries and as the bulletin artwork suggests, God provides for us. Confession is a key spiritual practice during Lent - both confession of our sin and brokenness *to* God, as well as our confession of faith *in* God. In our confessing, we discover that we are always held in God's love, and God provides abundant forgiveness. The worship visuals - rocky, barren, and dry wilderness landscape - symbolically set a scene that evokes our deepest spiritual longings as we prepare during Lent for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection at Easter.

Hymns this Sunday

Come, Thou Fount - HWB 521
I am Weak and I Need Thy Strength - HWB 553
When Peace Like a River - HWB 336
Rain Down - STJ 49

Prayers

We give thanks for

*Juergen and Meredith Schroeer send a heartfelt thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, meals and offers of help. Juergen came home Tuesday and is now doing very well. Will was here until Wednesday morning, and Linnaea will come Thursday from Montana. Many thanks for all your love and concern!

Condolences to

*Wilbur Bauman, Sam Godshall, Glenn Godshall, and families in the loss of wife and sister Dolores Bauman. Dolores Bauman passed away March 17, 2019 in Pennsylvania. Wilbur would like to share with his friends at Normal his sincere gratitude for the cards and emails they received. They have fond memories and loved receiving the expressions of many of you. Dolores Bauman's Obituary is linked [here](#). Arrangements for Dolores are as follows:

A visitation will be held on Sunday, March 31st from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Salford Mennonite Church, 480 Groff's Mill Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3:00 pm.

This Week At 805 S Cottage

Thur Mar 21	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
Sat Mar 23	Blood Drive 8:00 am
Sun Mar 24	Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am Worship 9:30 am Christian Education for Children 10:45 am Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am JMYF & MYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm Junior Choir 6:00 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Homebuilders (at MRC) 7:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm
Tue Mar 26	Peace & Justice Committee 5:00 pm
Thur Mar 28	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am MEDA Gathering at Miller's 7:00 pm



Serving This Sunday

Greeters

West: Mary Jantze

Welcome Table

Ushers

Ben & Caroline Roeschley, Emma & Jordan King

Sermon

Pastor Tim Schrag

Worship Leader

David Harnish

Song Leader

Barry Weaver

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepp

Scripture Reader

David Harnish

Children's Time

Pastor Jane Roeschley

Technology

Adam Augspurger

Toddler Nursery

Miriam Kennell

Preschool Nursery

The King Family





Birthdays and Anniversaries

Bob Kauffman 3/25
Meghan Reha 3/27
Jeff Reiman 3/27
Gail Fisher 3/28
Sophia Hubbs 3/28
Aaron Petri 3/29
Steve Stenger 3/29

Happy 47th Anniversary to Joe and Mary Jantze on March 26



Directory Update

Lee and Mary Alice have safely made the move to Kansas. Their new address is:
Lee & Mary Alice Hertzler
307 East Marion
Goessel, KS 67053



All Sharing and Prayer Requests to Pastor Tim During Lent

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 Lent.



Mennonite Church Blood Drive

Saturday, March 23
8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Walk-In's Welcome

For appointments, please call the church office or sign up [here](#), after entering sponsor code 0402803.
Bring photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.



Homebuilders

March 24, 2019 7:00 PM MRC Community Building

What did Abe Lincoln do in school? Did you do ciphering in school? Come and see samples of ciphering books and other items from former years. Ken Clements and Nerida Ellerton, who have been attending the MCN for the past months, will show and talk about ciphering books and other interesting artifacts.



Menno-Nite of Climbing

From Barry and Marge Weaver:

Many of you know that we have joined with another local couple to open The Proving Ground Boulderering Gym on East College Avenue. And we want to share it with you! We invite everyone from our church for an evening of climbing (or watching others climb) on FRIDAY, MARCH 29, from 6:30-8:30 PM. Anyone 3 years old and up may climb. We'll provide light snacks and 150 boulderering routes. :-)

If you plan to come:

- Fill out a waiver at tpgboulderering.com, even if you don't plan to climb. Waivers for minors need to be completed by parents or legal guardians.
- Anyone 14 and under needs to be accompanied by a supervising adult though this need not be the child's parent or guardian.
- Wear loose clothing.
- Climbing shoes and chalk bags included.
- No cost to anyone who is a regular participant at MCN.

Please let us know by MONDAY, MARCH 25, if you plan to be there. You may text Barry at 309-530-0051 or email him at barrycweaver@gmail.com.



Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) Gathering

Thursday, March 28, 7:00pm -- You're invited to the home of Eric and Chellie Miller to network with others, learn more about MEDA, and explore the opportunities that await through participation in a local network hub (formerly known as a MEDA chapter).

Members of MEDA staff will be on hand to provide an update on MEDA's work throughout the world, while local advocates will lead a discussion on the creation of a group of MEDA supporters in Central Illinois. Dessert and refreshments will be provided.

Please RSVP, text or call, to Eric (309.831.6585) or Ben Roeschley (815.848.5738) by Mon, March 25.



Facing Israel/Palestine: A New Model for Interfaith Relations

The Presbytery of Great Rivers will host Rabbi Brant Rosen on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 pm in Peoria at the First Federated Church Life Together Center (corner of War Memorial and Sheridan). The program features a talk and discussion led by Rabbi Rosen, author of *Wrestling in the Daylight* (2nd edition, 2017, Just World Books).

For the past several decades, Jewish-Christian relations have generally tiptoed around the very difficult issue of the Israel/Palestine conflict. Rabbi Rosen will explore the history of this relationship and offer a new model for interfaith dialogue based on common values and prophetic action that might promote a future of justice and peace for all who live in this troubled land. Rabbi Rosen is the Midwest Regional Director of the American Friends Service Committee and rabbi of congregation Tzedek Shalom in Chicago. The program is free and all are welcome. For more information contact John Nixon (309) 472-6392, jbnixonjb@aol.com. View the flyer [here](#).



Central District Conference Annual Meeting

The Milwaukee Brewers will play the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday afternoon, June 22 at 3:10p (following the close of the Central District Annual Meeting). CDC has the opportunity to get group tickets (\$16/person) for the game. If you would be interested in attending, please let the conference office know no later than March 29 so we know how many seats to reserve. office@mcusacdc.org or call 800 662 2264.



Illinois Mennonite Women's Retreat

Registration is now open for the 2019 Illinois Mennonite Women's Retreat, April 5-6, at Menno Haven. The presenters will be Hyacinth Stevens, a pastor and Program Director for MCC East Coast, from West Haven, CT, and Alicia Manning, a pastor and educator from Williamsburg, VA. Together they will be leading a two-day Sister Care Seminar. Brochures are available [here](#) and in the narthex, or register on the [Menno Haven website](#) (under Quick Links, choose "Register for a Program")

Talk with Shannon Unzicker if you have any questions.



Small Group Discussion and Listening Session

Sunday, April 7th, everyone is invited to gather for both small and large group discussions regarding our process in welcoming the LGBTQIA+ community. We will reflect on policies and statements as we discern the next steps together. We will gather immediately after Sunday School and lunch will be provided. If you would prefer an opportunity to share your thoughts more privately you are invited to contact a design team member for a one on one listening time.

familyFUNnight

Family Fun Nights are on the way . . .

Fridays April 5, 12 and 26th. Come for food, fellowship and fun as we explore the miracles of our mighty God. We'll begin at 5:30 with a meal and finish by 7:30 each night. Friends are welcome! Contact Chris at chrisculbertson22@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Spring Work Day - Saturday April 13th

You are invited to join us for a day of working together & meeting others who love Menno Haven. Maybe you'll learn a new skill or teach a new skill. Whatever happens, it should be a fun day. Work Day starts with breakfast at 8:00am and finishes around 4:00pm. Feel free to come for all or part of the day. Check out [our Work Day page](#) for the most up-to-date information on planned tasks and what to bring list. Contact Sheena at 815.646.4344 or sheena@mennohaven.com if you plan to come or if you have any questions.



Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Reporting

This year's sale was yet another success with total gross revenues of approximately \$250,000. This is right in line with our results at this point last year. We will learn more about this year's expenses and can share more finalized financial results, including net proceeds from the sale, in the coming weeks. A BIG THANK-YOU to everyone for volunteering, baking, making quilts, wall hangings, crocheting things etc., helping with recycling and donating money. A special thank-you to the high school youth group for making 39 bags of peppernuts, and the junior high youth group for making people chow! The Relief Sale was again a big success.

Gerry Schrock, Marcia Rossi & Roelie Homan

Dutch Market

The Dutch Market was a highly successful event this year. Due in part to many folks at MCN who've been helping here for several years, they knew just what to do and they jumped in. Ross, Wesley, and I were impressed with the smoothness of the work from set-up to tear-down. Many, many thanks to all those who participated --- those who donated items to sell, all who helped for many hours on Friday to get ready, stockers, runners to the refrigerated trailer, hosts helping people find things, all those helping with check-out, and those who helped us pack-up and tear down. We sincerely thank you for making the Dutch Market such a joyful and worthwhile event!

Quilt Report

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to purchase quilts for the MCC Sale.

Your gift of money to buy these quilts goes 100% to the profits of the sale.

This is a listing of the money received at the sale, where we are responsible.

This is an estimate, as I do not have the final reports from the Registrar.

Wisconsin Quilts - \$8,850.00 Purchased with your donations & sold at sale

Friends of Sale - \$4,340.00 This includes donations of quilts by church members.

Quilt Guild - \$2,525.00 This Guild meets in our church. Gerry Schrock is president.

Quilt Challenge - \$2,377.00 Louise Reeser started & organizes this for the 5th year.

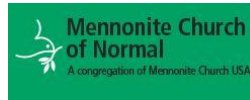
MCC Quilt Room - \$1,825.00 The Quilt Rooms sends us these quilts for the sale.

MCC is grateful for your donations and for all of you who contributed in any way to the sale, worker, shopper, buyer, baker, sewer, and your gift of time. We could not have this sale without each one of you, and working together we make it happen.

Our next Wisconsin quilt trip will be Saturday, July 27, if you would like to contribute to this project.

We will give a reminder when the time is closer.

Larry and Louise Reeser



Congregational Updates Announced in Worship March 17, 2019

First, the Church Board is moving forward with preparation for an intentional interim pastorate following the retirements of Pastor Tim at the end of August, and Pastor Jane at the end of November.

There are two types of interim pastorates - the first being simply an interim, and the second an intentional interim. A conventional interim pastorate is basically filling the pulpit until the new long-term pastor or pastoral team is ready to step in.

An intentional interim is generally recommended by Mennonite Church USA, for congregations after the conclusion of a successful long-term pastorate. We have been blessed to have two such pastorates.

From the guidelines written by the former MC-USA denominational minister, Nancy Kauffmann -

“1 - The pastoral search begins by first taking the time to say a proper good bye to the former pastor. Give yourself time - to grieve that loss, - and to let go of the former pastor so that you can fully embrace a new pastor.

2 - Next, assess the health of the congregation. What does the congregation need to work on to prepare herself for a new pastor? This is a good time to “clean out the closet” and lay aside structures, habits, secrets, underlying conflicts and anything else that holds the congregation back from growing in faithfulness to God. Putting the weight on the new pastor to make things better is not healthy for the congregation or for the new pastor.

3 - Embrace an interim period. This will give you time to work on a sound process for the pastoral search. Work with your conference to assess whether you need an intentional transitional pastor to help you work on deeper issues that may interfere with the health of your congregation.” This is accepted practice when churches have enjoyed long and healthy pastorates.

Our congregation relates equally to Illinois Conference and Central District Conference. Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference Minister, has consulted with leadership in Illinois Conference (which is currently in a state of transitional leadership). It has been agreed that our congregation will be working with Doug as a primary support and advocate. Doug has presented the Board with several interested persons, and the Board is

beginning to sort through their information and make inquiries. Doug assures us we are on a good timeline and we hope to have an interim pastor or pastors ready to work with us beginning in September. Whether or not additional pastoral support will be needed upon Pastor Jane's retirement at the end of November has yet to be determined.

A reminder - according to MCUSA guidelines, it is generally understood that calling an interim is the responsibility of the leadership body of a congregation - in our case, the Church Board. There is no congregational interview or vote on an interim - intentional or otherwise.

The congregation will be heavily involved in the calling of future pastoral leadership when that process is underway. We look forward to your help and support in that endeavor. As the Board continues its work on your behalf in calling an intentional interim pastor or pastors, we earnestly ask for your prayers - for clear vision and a calmness of spirit, trusting in God's intentions and leading.

The second item we have to share with you concerns the retirement of our lead pastor, Tim Schrag. Tim's final sermon will be preached on August 25. There will be a reception for him following the church service. The following Sunday, September 1, will mark the beginning of his retirement. On that Sunday, Doug Luginbill will be joining us for the sermon and the service will mark the close of Tim's pastorate with us here. A congregational meal will be served following the Sunday School hour and there will be plenty of time to visit with Tim and Sue then.

We wanted to ensure that these dates get on your calendars so that you can plan to attend. These are very important commemorative events in the lives of our congregation and in the lives of Tim and Sue. We hope that you are able to participate.

Plans for Pastor Jane's retirement continue to unfold and we will apprise you of dates as they are solidified.

As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me, or any members of the Church Board; Mary Ann Watkins, Janet Wilson, Stephanie Company, Eric Miller, Rick Satchwell, and Shannon Neely.



Would you provide a Sunday night meal for our youth groups?

Eating together has been an important part of our fellowship together! We anticipate needing food for 25 people and will aim to eat at 6:15 PM.

Thank you for your help with this--it is very much appreciated!

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094faaa87-youth>



Returning Citizens Care Kits, Sponsored by the Outreach Committee

For the months of March and April we will be collecting Returning Citizens Care Kits for persons returning to our community from prison. Kits for men and/or women are need to share with Jobs Partnership and Labyrinth

Outreach services, two organizations in our community offering reintegration services to persons formerly incarcerated. Gently used backpacks or small duffel bags are also needed in which to pack the kits. Bring to the red tub in the atrium, or a donation may be made to MCN, for use by the Outreach Committee to purchase the items on your behalf. Contributing partial kits, or just some of the items is more than okay.

Returning Citizen Care Kit - Men (New Items Only)

- 1 bottle of lotion (maximum 13-24 oz.)
- 1 bottle of shampoo (minimum 12 oz.)
- 1 large bar of soap (minimum 4 oz.)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 small package of Q-tips
- 1 deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.)
- 1 pair of underwear (briefs)*
- 1 pair of crew socks*
- 1 crewneck t-shirt*

*Note: Clothing items must be new and are accepted in two sizes: men's large and extra large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and t-shirts in the same size.

Returning Citizen Care Kit - Women (New items only)

- 1 bottle of lotion (maximum 13-24 oz.)
- 1 bottle of shampoo (minimum 12 oz.)
- 1 large bar of soap (minimum 4 oz.)
- 1 tube of toothpaste (minimum 6 oz.)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 package of sanitary pads (18-24 count thin maxi)
- 1 package of hair ties
- 1 disposable razor
- 1 small package of Q-tips
- 1 deodorant (minimum 2.25 oz.)
- 1 pair of crew socks*
- 1 pair of underwear (briefs)*
- 1 crewneck t-shirt*

*Note: Clothing items must be new and are accepted in two sizes: women's large and extra large. Please choose one of these sizes and purchase underwear, socks and t-shirts in the same size.



SWAP Volunteers Urgently Needed

MCC's Sharing With Appalachia People (SWAP) program has an urgent need for volunteer groups and individuals. Summer will be here before we know it, so make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky or West Virginia. Don't miss out on your chance to serve with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Individuals or groups, including families, adults or youth can volunteer to serve for week-long opportunities. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP, visit swap.mcc.org or contact Angela Maggard at AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.



Join MCC Great Lakes for a Pipeline to Prison learning tour on August 4-9

Based in Goshen, Ind., the tour will focus on the challenges and complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system and include day trips to South Bend, Elkhart, and Bunker Hill, Ind. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry. All who are interested in learning about disparities in the justice system, including those working in or seeking to develop a prison/re-entry ministry, are welcome. For more information and registration visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison or contact Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano at JuanPacheco@mcc.org or 574-534-4133. View the flyer [here](#).



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

"We seek justice in the world, we fight for the flourishing of each and all, not just because we suffer with others, but because we sense the luminosity and love the loveliness." **Mayra Rivera**



Building Use

HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

March 21, 6:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous

March 23, 10:00 am

Al-Anon

March 25, 7:00 pm

Cantus Novus

March 26, 7:00 pm

Overeaters Anonymous

March 27, 5:00 pm

Crosswinds Church

March 27, 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



Mom: "Don't let me ever catch you doing that again!"

Kid: "I'll try, but you're so quiet sometimes."