



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

March 27, 2019

## Worship with Us this Sunday, March 31

The sermon title is *Coming Home: The Tale of Two Brothers* and the Scripture is Luke 15:11-32. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "One commentator notes that BOTH brothers were 'far from home', due to habits which were misguided and self-serving. Food for thought!"

### 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

Far, Far Away from My Loving Father - HWB 139

Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God - STS 121

Why Should I Feel Discouraged - STJ 103

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## Prayers

### Please Pray for

\*Paul Ropp, Ron Ropp's brother, who has had cancer return and has experienced a decline in health

\*Mark Alsene's cousin who is experiencing some health challenges

### We give thanks for

\*A successful Blood Drive last Saturday

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## This Week At 805 S Cottage

- Thur Mar 28      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
MEDA Gathering at Miller's 7:00 pm
- Fri Mar 29      Menno-Nite of Climbing at The Proving Ground 6:30 pm
- Sun Mar 31      Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am  
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am  
MRC Meeting 2:00 pm  
JMYF & MYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm  
Junior Choir 6:00 pm  
Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
- Thur Apr 4      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
- Fri Apr 5      Family Fun Night 5:00 pm



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## Serving This Sunday

Greeters	JB or Erin Ponnou-Delaffon with Clara West: Mark Alsene
Welcome Table	Wilma Dyck
Ushers	Adam & Caleb Augspurger, Kristen & Lauren Satchwell
Sermon	Pastor Tim Schrag
Worship Leader	David Harnish
Song Leader	Cindy Ropp
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Scripture Reader	David Harnish
Children's Time	Pastor Jane Roeschley
Technology	Adam Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Kristen Satchwell
Preschool Nursery	Spring or Shannon Neely



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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Ruby Brandon 4/1  
Phil Dick 4/6  
Denise Hedberg 4/6

Happy 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary to Roger and Linda Clemmons on April 2

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:office@mcusacdc.org) or call 800 662 2264.

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## Menno-Nite of Climbing

From Barry and Marge Weaver:

Everyone from our church is invited 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 bouldering routes!

If you plan to come:

- Fill out a waiver at [tpgbouldering.com](http://tpgbouldering.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 if you plan to be there. You may text Barry at 309-530-0051 or email him at [barrycweaver@gmail.com](mailto:barrycweaver@gmail.com).

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## 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.

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## 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. Please see the document linked [here](#) which will be used to help guide a large part of the discussion.

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## 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](mailto:chrisculbertson22@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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## Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

April 12, 6pm - 8pm

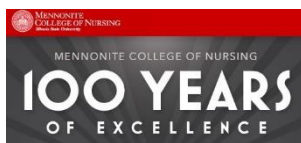
Come join us in a fun evening of service to others at Midwest Food Bank! Anyone 10 yrs or older is welcome. We are limited to 20 individuals. Sign up at [Signup Genius](#) or contact the church office.

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**Join us Saturday, April 13 from 8 - 4 for Menno Haven's Spring Work Day!**

Come volunteer, meet others that love camp and enjoy a meal. For more information see the posted flyer on the entry table and [here](#) or call Menno Haven at 815-646-4344.



## ISU's Mennonite College of Nursing's Centennial Celebration Gala

Saturday, May 4, 2019

DoubleTree, Bloomington

\$100 per ticket (\$50 of each ticket is considered tax deductible)

You may [register online](#) or call the Alumni Engagement Office at (309) 438-2586. The deadline to register is April 15!



### 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](http://swap.mcc.org) or contact Angela Maggard at [AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org](mailto:AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org) or 606-633-5065.

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## MCC Responds to Disaster Caused by Cyclone Idai in Mozambique & Malawi

On March 15, Cyclone Idai destroyed 90 percent of Beira, one of Mozambique's largest cities, and affected nearly 3 million people in its path with widespread flooding up to 20 feet high. Bridges, roads, fields, farms and millions of homes were violently washed away. It was one of the worst tropical cyclones ever to hit the southern hemisphere. Your gift will help MCC and our partners provide emergency assistance to those in dire need. You can donate online at [mcc.org/cyclone-idai](http://mcc.org/cyclone-idai). Donations can also be made by calling 1-888-563-4676 or by contacting your local MCC office.

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## Love Crosses Borders

A Mennonite Men immersion experience with immigrants. Love is the greatest of all virtues. But what does love look like in times of cynicism and polarization? Borders are not only social constructs, they're also spiritual ones.

Who's included? Who's excluded? How do we reconcile God's call to welcome the stranger with so much fear-filled rhetoric and policies? What can unwelcomed immigrants teach the Church about love? How can the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement inform and inspire us to a love that crosses borders? July 28 to August 3, Mennonite Men will provide a week-long immersion experience with immigrants to engage these issues. To register or for more information, visit <https://www.mennonitemen.org/> or contact Steve Thomas at [SteveT@Mennonites.org](mailto:SteveT@Mennonites.org).

View the flyer [here](#).

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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### Voice of the Day

"I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of having it bruised or misunderstood." **Audre Lorde**

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### Building Use

**Overeaters Anonymous**

March 30, 10:00 am

**Al-Anon**

April 1, 7:00 pm

**Cantus Novus**

April 2, 7:00 pm

**Overeaters Anonymous**

April 3, 5:00 pm

**Crosswinds Church**

April 3, 5:00 pm

**HAAQG Meeting**

April 4, 5:30 pm

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### Today's Chuckle



This guy had a problem of oversleeping. He was always late for work, and his boss was getting mad. So he went to the doctor and got some pills that were supposed to help.

That night he slept well and woke up even before the alarm! He had a leisurely breakfast and drove happily to work.

"Boss", he said. "The pill the doctor gave me actually worked!"

"That's fine," said the boss, "but where were you yesterday?"