

MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

April 3, 2019

## Worship with Us this Sunday, April 7

The sermon title is *Things Which are Real but Not Yet Seen* and the Scripture is Isaiah 43:16-21 and Philipians 3:10-14. Pastor Tim Schrag comments, "During the sermon I'll show 3 minute YouTube video, 'Okavango heartbeat'. Here's the link for those who wish to preview it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYPojjQ3MzA> The producer writes: *'[This is] A short film I put together for a class on wetland hydrology. The purpose was to tell the tale, visually, of the annual Okavango Delta flood, a wetland located in the heart of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. The waters originate as rain in Angola, but only reach the Okavango many months later, when the Okavango Delta and surrounding desert have not seen rain for half a year. The arrival of the flood pulse is like an annual heartbeat, pumping life-giving waters back into the desert, which transforms into an oasis and mecca for wildlife.'*"

### 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

O Lord, Our Lord, How Majestic - HWB 112  
This is a Day of New Beginnings - HWB 640  
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise - HWB 70  
Awake, My Soul - HWB 609

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## Prayers

**Please Pray for**

- \*Paul Ropp, Ron Ropp's brother, who has started hospice after cancer treatments have become ineffective
- \*Holly Zehr and Bev Kurka as they adjust and commemorate the one-year-anniversary of Holly's father's death,  
Bob Kurka
- \*Deb Hickman asks for prayers for Payton Pierce of Arizona. The four-year-old girl had a playground injury that required surgery and is now recovering from brain swelling
- \*March 31 was International Transgender Day of Visibility, we hold in love and prayer all transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance.

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**This Week At 805 S Cottage**

- Thur Apr 4      Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am
- Fri Apr 5      Family Fun Night 5:00 pm
- Sun Apr 7      Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am  
Blood Pressures Taken 10:45 am  
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am  
Process Design Team Discussion 11:45 am  
JMYF & MYF Youth Groups 5:00 pm  
Junior Choir 6:00 pm  
Youth Choir 6:45 pm  
Adult Choir 7:30 pm
- Mon Apr 8      Mennonite Women 9:30 am  
Organ Tuning 12:00 pm  
Financial Stewardship 4:30 pm
- Tue Apr 9      Church Board 5:30 pm  
Wellness Committee 5:30 pm
- Wed Apr 10     Pastoral Council 6:00 pm
- Thur Apr 11     Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am  
Pastor Peer Meeting 9:00 am  
Outreach Committee 5:00 pm  
MCC Sale Evaluation 7:00 pm
- Fri Apr 12      Family Fun Night 5:30 pm  
Midwest Food Bank Volunteers 6:00 pm



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**Serving This Sunday**



Greeters

Jeff & Amy Reiman

West: Mark Roeschley

Welcome Table

Ushers	Larry & Louise Reeser, Connie Reeser-Hall, & Pastor Tim Schrag
Sermon	Janet Wilson
Worship Leader	Glenn Wilson
Song Leader	Chris Culbertson
Accompanist	Janet Wilson
Scripture Reader	Pastor Jane Roeschley
Children's Time	Wesley Hershberger
Technology	
Toddler Nursery	
Preschool Nursery	Ian Unzicker

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## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Joe Haney 4/8  
Nathan Valverde 4/10  
Lauren Satchwell 4/11  
William Sila 4/11  
Elfriede Massier 4/12  
Lydia Hedberg 4/13  
Doris Shoemaker 4/13

Happy 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Paul and Mary Ann Watkins on April 7

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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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## Communion

Communion will be celebrated in worship on Easter Sunday, April 21. In preparation, we are all encouraged to engage in self-examination—of both our relationships with God, and with others.

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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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## Student Mutual Aid Program (SMAP) College Student Care Packages

These will be mailed out on Monday, April 8.

Things to include: Gift cards, cash, notes, gum, etc.

Things to not include: Baked goods, small puppies, other perishable items.

MCN currently has 12 students in college. Thank you for supporting our college students!

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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 above the entry table and [here](#) or call Menno Haven at 815-646-4344.

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## Cantus Novus Chorale

Spring Concert April 14, 3:00 pm

Several MCN members are part of the Cantus Novus community singing group. This is a four-part, 30 member chorus which presents a concert each Spring and Fall. Our Spring concert will be on Sunday, April 14 at 3:00 here at MCN. The music will include Eric Whitacre's Five Hebrew Love Songs and David von Kampen's Three Nebraska Lyrics. There is no charge for the concert, although donations are welcomed.

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## Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service

Thursday, April 18, 7:00 pm

Come worship with us. This service includes scriptures, prayer, quiet music, Communion and the voluntary opportunity to practice foot washing.

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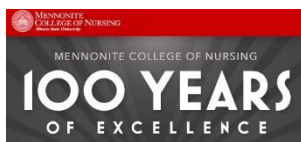


## MCN Easter Breakfast

Everyone is invited to come early to church on Easter Sunday, April 21 for our traditional Easter Breakfast. This is always a joyous time of greeting church friends and visiting family. Serving is scheduled from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.

Please RSVP below and also see where you might sign up to help with set up or clean up, and/or to bring a breakfast casserole or breakfast bread (coffee cake, muffins, cinnamon rolls, etc.) Everything else will be provided. Serving will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. [Click here for the SignUpGenius Link](#). Signup sheets are also on the bulletin board in the Atrium, or see Kristen Satchwell to sign up or with questions.

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## 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!

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## 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.



## 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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## Do You Have These Items You Could Donate to the Church Library?

### Family & Teen DVDs

I Can Only Imagine  
Heaven is for Real  
Miracles from Heaven  
The Case for Christ

Soul Surfer  
Amazing Grace  
The Shack  
Unconditional  
Mully

**Kids DVDs**

A Very Veggie Easter  
Jonah / The Pirates (Veggie Tales)  
The Star

**Contemporary Christian CDs: Youth, Young Adults & Families**

Chris Tomlin: Never Loose Sight  
Tauren Wells: Hills and Valleys  
Zach Williams: Chain Breaker  
Mercy Me: I Can Only Imagine  
Lauren Daigle: How Can it Be  
Lauren Daigle: Look Up Child  
Francesca Battistelli: Greatest Hits The First 10 Years  
Toby Mac: This is Not A Test  
Toby Mac: Elements  
Mandisa: Overcomer  
Mandisa: Out of the Dark  
Jordan Feliz: The River  
Britt Nicole: Gold  
Hawk Nelson: Miracles  
Casting Crowns: The Very Next Thing  
Casting Crowns: Only Jesus  
Caitie Hurst: How Could I Be Silent



**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



## Voice of the Day

"Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone. But it is also securing the space for others to contribute the best that they have and all that they are." **Hafsat Abiola**

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## Building Use

### HAAQG Meeting

April 4, 5:30 pm

### HAAQG Workshop

April 5&6, 8:00 am

### Overeaters Anonymous

April 6, 10:00 am

### Wild Ones Meeting

April 8, 5:30 pm

### Al-Anon

April 8, 7:00 pm

### Cantus Novus

April 9, 7:00 pm

### Overeaters Anonymous

April 10, 5:00 pm

### Crosswinds Church

April 10, 5:00 pm

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## Today's Chuckle



A woman took her dog to the parlor for a haircut and asked what it would cost. Being told that it would cost her \$100, she was outraged.

"I only pay 70 bucks for my own haircut!" she said.

The groomer replied, "That may be true. But then you don't bite, do you?"