



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

June 26, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, June 30

Sermon: Beyond perseverance

Also worth reading as preparation for sermon are these texts from Jeremiah (among others): chapter 7, 9:1-6, chapter 12, 15:10-21, chapters 31-33; Lamentations chapter 1

Scripture: Jeremiah 20:7-18

Hymns this Sunday

To God Be the Glory- HWB 102
Let the Whole Creation Cry- HWB 51
Come Thou Fount- HWB 521
Fairest Lord Jesus- HWB 117

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

Amy & Jeff Reiman

Welcome Table

West: Joe Culpepper

Ushers

Kay Reimer

Sermon

Mark Roeschley, Caleb Augspurger, Andy & Beth Reeser

Pastor Tim Schrag



Worship Leader
Song Leader
Accompanist
Scripture Reader
Children's Time
Children's Song Leader
Technology
Toddler Nursery

Preschool Nursery

Amy Reiman
Jenell Ulrich
Dorothy Loepf
Kay Reimer
Shelly King
Melika Hershberger
Randy Zehr
Kristy Hoffman

Jeremy Haab

This Week at MCN

Thursday, June 27 Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am

Sunday June 30 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Annette Harnish, 6/26
Alena Culbertson, 6/28
Clara Unzicker, 6/29
Jordan King, 7/1
Janet Wilson, 7/1
Courtney Yoder, 7/1

Lois & Wayne Hochstetler, 6/27
Janet & Glenn Wilson, 7/2

Special Music for Worship

We are looking for singers and those who play instruments to enhance our worship this summer with special music. All levels welcome--from beginners to long-timers. Contact Pastor Jane and she'll work out a date with you.



Welcome, Laurie Vial, Office Manager

Laurie Vial is the new Office Manager, with Lynn training her during the summer. She assumed the duties of both Administrative Assistant (mostly recently Lauren) and Office Manager (Lynn).

New Office Hours

Monday 9-4

Tuesday 9-4

Thursday 9-4

Friday 9-12, 1-4

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Season of Listening Prayer

Over the past year, we have been trying to hear what God is calling the Mennonite Church of Normal to be as a community that includes LGBTQIA+ people. For the month of June, the Church Board and the Pastors invite us all to a season of prayerful listening and spiritual reflection.

This week we focus on being a blessing to others as a result of being blessed by God. The prayer prompts are: How do you receive joy in blessing others? How do you sense God is calling MCN to be a blessing? This week we are also asked to complete

A Season of Listening Prayer and Reflection RESPONSE FORM, which was distributed last Sunday. **Please bring your completed form on Sunday, June 30. They will be collected as an offering to God during worship.**

They can also be turned into the church office until July 15. They are also available at <https://normalmennonite.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/RESPONSE-CARDS-for-June-23.pdf>

You should have received a copy of [A Season of Listening Prayer and Reflection Together](#) in your mailbox. This

includes an overview of the Season of Prayer, and questions that we are being asked to respond to.

The link below will take you to an electronic copy of *A Season of Listening Prayer and Reflection Together* and a *Prayer Walk Guide*.

<https://normalmennonite.org/season-of-listening-prayer-and-reflection-together/>



FREE Jazz Concerts this weekend by Glenn Wilson!

Friday June 28 - Normal Theater - 7PM. Saturday June 29 - Illinois Shakespeare Festival - Ewing Manor - 6:30PM.
Both concerts are free and open to the public.

Warfel Farewell

MCN friends: you are invited to a farewell party for Abby, David, Sam, and Joe Warfel on July 13 at 4:30 PM. We will gather at the home of Holly and Randy Zehr. Main dish items and drinks will be provided, please bring a side dish to share. We hope you can join us to wish the Warfels well before they journey to Wisconsin for new beginnings!

Donations for Amish Auction

It is time to begin donating to our yearly project for MCC. As in the past, we will be collecting donations to purchase quilts at the Amish Auction in Wisconsin on July 27. These quilts will be sold for a profit at our MCC Sale next March 2020.

This is one way to help the Amish, and also to increase our donation to the sale. If you wish to donate to this project, please label your donation for Wisconsin Quilt Purchase. We will collect donations until July 21. Thank you for considering helping with this MCC project. Contact Larry and Louise Reeser for more information.



Mennonite Women USA Quilt Raffle

Mennonite Women USA has commissioned four beautiful quilts to be raffled off at the upcoming MC USA Convention in Kansas City.

Shannon Unzicker has tickets for purchase at \$20 each--you need not be present to win. Quilts were created by Bonnie Neufeld, Cyneatha Millsaps, Marie Harnish, and women from San Francisco Mennonite Church.

See photos of the quilts and find more information on Mennonite Women USA's website at mwusa.org



Rhubarb Collection for 2020 MCC Relief Sale

Thanks to all who harvested and froze rhubarb to be transformed into pies for next March's MCC Relief Sale.

We will be collecting your rhubarb contributions for the next three Sundays, June 23, June 30, and July 7.

Please put your 6 cup containers of frozen rhubarb in the freezer in the MCN kitchen and we will store it until pie-baking time next spring.

Thanks!

-Sophie Charles & Leah Roeschley



Retirement Celebration for Tim and Sue Schrag

Please join the Church Board as we celebrate the retirement of Pastor Tim Schrag and thank him for his many years of service to Mennonite Church of Normal.

Sunday, August 25, 2019 will be Pastor Tim's final sermon with our congregation.

A cake and punch reception will be served during the fellowship time between the Church Service and the Sunday School hour. This time together will give the congregation opportunity to bid farewell to the Schrags.

Sunday, September 1, 2019 Doug Lukanbill, Central District Conference Minister, will be preaching. Pastor Schrag will be officially retired but he and Sue will be in attendance that day. A fellowship meal will be served on this day and there will be special gifts and words of appreciation presented to Tim and Sue. This will be our

final farewell to the Schrags.

Personal Expressions of Gratitude

Other personal expressions of gratitude are welcome. If you are interested in making a monetary gift in honor of Tim's retirement you may do so through the normal giving methods to the church office. Please designate "Tim's retirement gift."

If you have questions contact: Stephanie Company or Mary Ann Watkins



MCN Annual 4th of July Picnic

Everyone is invited to the annual 4th of July picnic!

Thursday, July 4, 5:30 pm,

Maxwell Park Pavilion on Parkside Street in west Normal (north of Parkside Junior High School).

This has been a fun and well-attended event in the past; hope you can join us this year.

Here's the info: Bring your own picnic and drink. We will have the grill hot and ready if you want to bring something to throw on there! Ice cream and bowls/spoons will be provided for dessert. You are invited to bring your favorite ice cream topping to add to the sundae bar. Other things you may want to bring: lawn chairs, lawn games, sparklers, etc. Enjoy food, fellowship, frisbee, basketball, lawn games, and more! Anyone interested can travel to watch fireworks together later in the evening. No RSVP necessary. Contact Rick or Annette Harnish with any questions. Hope to see you there!



MCC Appalachia Seeking Program Coordinator

MCC Great Lakes is looking for an Appalachia Program Coordinator to provide overall direction and supervision of MCC's work in the Appalachian region in eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. Specifically, this Program Coordinator will help with the primary program Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP), a home repair ministry that provides service and learning opportunities at three locations. The Program Coordinator reports to the Executive Director for MCC Great Lakes in Goshen.

Deadline extended. Apply online for this opening by July 15 at mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings/appalachia-program-coordinator. For more information contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or AmberFalcon@mcc.org.



Summer Sunday School for Pre-K-Elementary

Summer is finally on its way, and we wanted to let you know what our Summer SS program will look like.

For Summer Sunday School, we have a schedule of the events in this google doc: [MCN Summer SS 2019](#)
If you would like to sign up for an open slot, either teaching or helping, that would be much appreciated!
Just add your name in the document. The upper grades are going to do a Science with Jesus curriculum and the lower grades will do a 3 week mini-unit on Jesus as our shepherd and a 6 week unit on the days of creation.

There are three special events to take note of:

1. July 14th - Trip to Sugar Grove
2. August 11 - Menno Haven Sunday
3. August 18 - Share your Passion Fair

We'll supply more details on these events as summer progresses.



Mental Health First Aid Training

You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. The Mental Health First Aid class teaches a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to people with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate care. Mental Health First Aid is for anyone - parents, neighbors, students, first responders, teachers, leaders of faith communities, human resources professionals, and caring citizens.

7/29/19

Adult Mental Health First Aid
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
(800)661-5151

8/9/2019

Youth Mental Health First Aid (Content Covers Ages 12-18)
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
(800)661-5151

10/10/19

Youth Mental Health First Aid (Content Covers Ages 12-18)
Advocate BroMenn Medical Center
(800)323-8622

11/4/19

Adult Mental Health First Aid
OSF St. Joseph Medical Center
(800)661-5151

The Wellness Committee invites you to consider attending an upcoming Mental Health First Aid training!



Summer Camp at Menno Haven & Friedenswald

If your son or daughter would like to go to camp, MCN would love to help with the cost. The church pays \$65 off the top (you can write your check for \$65 less and the church will automatically cover it.) AND your child can earn \$60 by filling out a Blessing Bingo Sheet. If your child won't be attending camp, they can still fill out a sheet and receive a prize. The sheets will be on the table with children's bulletins before or after church this summer. This is a revamped version of our service passports.

Here are the links to Menno Haven and Friedenswald camps:

<http://www.mennohaven.com/summer-camps1.html>

<https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps/>

If you have any questions about summer camps, contact Chris Culbertson



Pipeline to Prison Learning Tour

Join MCC Great Lakes for a week-long 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.

Hygiene Kits

Mennonite Women are going to be collecting supplies for hygiene kits during the month of June.

69,375 hygiene kits were shipped to Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea), Ukraine, Iraq, Zambia, Lebanon, Burkina Faso, Canada, and the U.S., last year.

Bags to put the supplies in will be available on a table in back of the sanctuary.

The supplies include the following:

1 adult-size toothbrush (in original packaging)

1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper/box)
1 nail clipper
1 hand towel
1 wide tooth comb (6-8 inches)

***Be Thou My Vision* Quiet Retreat**

August 16-18, 2019
Chiara Center, Springfield

Registration form on the Entryway table
Due to church office by July 30

See Pastor Jane for details.

Easterseals Walk With Me

Easterseals will hold its Walk With Me on July 13 at 9 a.m. at Hancock Stadium. See flyer on the bulletin board.
One of the walkers is Blessing who used to attend MCN.

Delegate Report from Central District Conference

Mennonite Church of Normal belongs to two regional conferences, Central District Conference (CDC) and Illinois Mennonite Conference. I was privileged to serve as the delegate from our congregation to the annual meeting of CDC, which met at Milwaukee Mennonite Church, June 20-22, 2019. As I have experienced in the past, there was an open and welcoming atmosphere, which eased my sense of presence in their gathering. I want to report briefly on the meeting.

In addition to the creative worship which took place, there were these important actions and reports:

The Mennonite Convention in 2021 will probably be in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Some of us are aware that conversations have been taking place between CDC and Allegheny Mennonite Conference regarding the future journeys of these two conferences, with the possibility of merging, as one option. That option will not take place, and the two conferences will go forward as two distinct bodies.

CDC warmly welcomed and commissioned the new President of Bluffton University, Dr. Jane Wood.

Three new congregations applied for, and were unanimously accepted as members of CDC. These congregations are: Americus (GA) Mennonite Fellowship; Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Gainesville, FL; and Jubilee Mennonite Church, Bellefontaine, OH.

CDC is in ongoing discussions with SEMILLA, the Seminary for Anabaptist-Mennonite Leaders, located in Guatemala. What would a future mutual relationship between these two organizations look like? More will be reported next year.

CDC adopted a spending plan for 2019-2020 of \$234,926.



Celtic Pilgrimage 2021 co-led by Jane Roeschley and Karla Minter

Early planning is underway for a Celtic Pilgrimage in June 2021 to the Celtic holy sites of Iona (Scotland), Glendalough (Ireland) and Kildare (Ireland).

Pilgrimage offers an opportunity to travel slowly and mindfully, with the intention of connecting spiritually with God, with fellow pilgrims and with sacred places. There will be significant times for personal solitude and reflection, group sharing, walks, morning/evening prayers, Sunday worship services, speakers and the occasional museum.

Persons will want to be physically fit enough to walk a couple of miles a day and possibly in the rain. Solo travelers will sometimes be assigned to share a twin room.

Estimated fee, not including air fare going or coming, is \$5000 per person. There are 16 places available. If interested, please request an Application from Jane. When registered, a \$500 non-refundable deposit will be due to hold a reservation.



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. 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. Both the staff who serve, and the patients and families needing those 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

Making sense of painful experiences is sacred work. It asks us to respect our own time, space, and language. These are the unique fingerprints of our own healing.

- Rebecca Ray



Building Use

Wednesday, June 26
Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Thursday, June 27
Recital Practice Prep 6:00 pm

Saturday, June 29
Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am
Recital 1 pm

Monday, July 1
Al-Anon 5:30 pm

Wednesday, July 3
Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



The temporary Sunday School teacher was struggling to open a combination lock on the supply cabinet.

She had been told the combination, but couldn't quite remember it. Finally she went to the pastor's study and asked for help.

The pastor came into the room and began to turn the dial. After the first two numbers he paused and stared blankly for a moment. Finally he looked serenely heavenward and his lips moved silently.

Then he looked back at the lock, and quickly turned to the final number, and opened the lock.

The teacher was amazed. "I'm in awe at your faith, pastor," she said.

"It's really nothing," he answered.

"The number is on a piece of tape on the ceiling."