



MIDWEEK CONNECTION AT MCN

July 3, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, July 7

Sermon: Knowing our place. The Core Value of Denominational Affiliation.

Denominational affiliation is one of our Core Values. I'll be looking at 'pride' as a factor which can lead to too little, or too much, emphasis on this part of a congregation's existence. This is the subject of all of the Scriptures

Scriptures: I Peter 5:5; James 4:6; Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:16; Galatians 6:1-3 (all NIV)

Hymns this Sunday

Great is the Lord HWB 87
Praise Him, Praise Him HWB 100
Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God STS 121
The Lord Lift You Up STJ 73

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

Juergen & Meredith Schroeer

Wilma Dyck

Welcome Table

Mary Jantze

Ushers

Larry & Louise Reeser, Mark Roeschley, & Adam Augspurger



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

Pastor Tim
Gail Fisher
Barry Weaver
Elsa Raab
Lynette Miller
Melika Hershberger
Melika Hershberger
Caleb Augspurgen
Holly Zehr
Adam Reiman

This Week at MCN

Thursday, July 4 4th of July Celebration Maxwell Park 5:30 pm

Sunday July 7 Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Worship 9:30 am
Christian Education for Children 10:45 am
Blood Pressure Checks 10:45 am
Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am

Monday, July 8 Mennonite Women 9:30 am

Tuesday, July 9 Peace & Justice 5 pm

Wednesday, July 10 Pastoral Council 6 pm
Back to Basics Training 7 pm
Financial Stewardship 7 pm



Prayer Requests

From June 23, 2019

Mary Dyck shared that her mother, Wilma, was able to attend her 70th high school class reunion and visit her older siblings!

Ruth Haney asked for prayers for her grandson who sustained a concussion in a sailing accident.

Nancy and Gail Fisher ask for prayers for their son, Dustin, who has a malignant brain tumor and is undergoing chemo and radiation.

John Bertsche reported that Nathan Fatiki is doing well.

Thanksgiving given for all the workers who helped spread mulch around the property.

Doris Shoemaker asked for prayers for Ken as he is having severe knee pain and mobility issues.

Ron Ropp asked for prayers for Jim Warren and his 12 children as Jim's wife died after a battle with cancer.

Steve Stenger will be having quadruple bypass surgery within two weeks. Location and date are pending. Thankfully the blockages were discovered before heart damage occurred, and the long-term prognosis is very good.



Birthdays

SERPETTE, Ardys 07/05

BELZER, Keith 07/07

KING, Emma 07/08

SCHRAG, Sue 07/08

WILBER, Gail 07/08

HICKMAN, Laineigh 07/09

Anniversaries

WEAVER, Barry & Marjorie (39) 07/04

HARNISH, David & Gabriella (5) 07/05

HUBBS, Tina & Chris (23) 07/07

ROTH, Peter & Carolyn (40) 07/07

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

To email Laurie use church@mennonitenormal.org.

Office Hours

The church office will have a slightly altered schedule for this week and next. The office hours will be

July 4 closed

July 5: 9-noon

July 8: 9-noon

July 9: 1-4pm

July 10: 1-4pm

July 11: 1-4pm

July 12: 9-noon

We will return to regular office hours 9-4 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday on July 15.

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Annual Picnic at Sugar Grove

Sunday, July 14th - Annual picnic at Sugar Grove Nature Center. Come join our Sunday School children after church to enjoy the Sugar Grove Nature Center. Bring your own picnic lunch and play clothes! For more information about the site and directions, go to: www.sugargrovenaturecenter.org For info. about the event, feel free to contact Chris Culbertson or Beth Reeser.

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

School Kits

Last year MCC shipped 78,035 school kits to Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Zambia, Ukraine, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Canada and the U.S. During the months of July and August Mennonite Women will be collecting supplies for school kits. Bags will be provided by Mennonite Women and you can find them in the back of the sanctuary with the list of supplies needed. They will be collected in the red tub. The list of supplies are as follows:

4 spiral or perforated page ONE SUBJECT notebooks (8.5x10.5 in) 70 sheets. (DO NOT BUY 5 SUBJECT NOTEBOOKS)

8 new unsharpened pencils

1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)

12 colored pencils (in package)

1 eraser (such as pink pearl)

2 new black or blue ballpoint pens

1 small ALL METAL pencil sharpener (MENNONITE WOMEN WILL SUPPLY THE SHARPENERS; THEY CAN BUY THEM IN BLUK THOROUGH AMAZON). Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because they are poor quality and do no last long.

Mennonite Arts Weekend

Will be Feb. 7-9, 2020 - a celebration of Mennonite artists. The 2020 celebration is also a milestone in that it is the 15th, having met biennially since 1992.

They are interested in knowing if there might be a person from Mennonite Church of Normal who would be a point person. If you are passionate about the arts please consider volunteering to be the "point person" and tell Pastor Jane.

Disaster Relief at Hardin, IL

Sisters and brothers,

We are all aware of what a devastating month May was for Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa. East of the Mississippi, we also experienced storms causing tornadoes, floods, and other damage. Since February, Illinois has been experiencing localized flooding along the Mississippi and other river systems. By the end of May, Illinois, and much of the midwest had experienced the wettest twelve month period on record. As you know, many of our farmers have only been able to get into their fields to plant in the last three weeks or so.

One area in Illinois where widespread flooding occurred was Hardin, IL, between the Mississippi and the Illinois Rivers. Hardin has been flooded for months and the waters have finally subsided.

Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief is taking the lead. The work will primarily involve much out, demolition of drywall and fixtures, and sanitizing the exposed studs and sheathing in homes. Thirty or more homes were affected. The IBDR will be working in Hardin from July 5th through the month of July. They are looking for both day volunteers as well as those who can stay over longer.

Housing is being provided in the local school. Food, tools, and equipment will be provided. If interested, please contact Ronn Frantz at ILMDSunit@gmail.com or 773/401-4165.

Shalom, Ronn Frantz

Ron and Leanne Schertz

Ron and Leanne Schertz are transferring their church membership to 8th Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, Indiana. "Please extend our gratitude to the [MCN] congregation for their fellowship, love, and care during the past years. We pray God's continuing blessing on the Mennonite Church of Normal as it anticipates major changes in leadership in the coming months."



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 Luginbill, 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.

Immigration detainee care kits being collected

Mennonite Central Committee Central States is now collecting Immigration detainee care kits. When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they are taken to bus stations and airports to reconnect with their families in the U.S. Please visit mcc.org/immigrationkit for all the details of what goes into the kit and how the kits will be distributed. It is one small way we can share Christ's love with our neighbors. All kit supplies and financial donations should be sent directly to MCC Central States 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. To help MCC purchase immigration detainee care kit supplies and cover transportation costs for the kits, checks should be made out to MCC with "CS Kits" in the memo line. Questions? Please contact MCC Central States at 316.283.2720.



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!



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.

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

Aug. 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.



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

Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both.

-Eleanor Roosevelt



Building Use

Wednesday, July 3

Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Saturday, July 6

Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am

Monday, July 8

Al-Anon 5:30 pm

Wednesday, July 10

Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle



BIBLE TRIVIA

Who was the most successful physician in the Bible?

Job. He had the most patience.

Who was the best financier in the Bible?

Noah. He floated his stock while the whole world was in liquidation.

Who is the straightest man in the Bible?

Joseph. Pharaoh made a ruler out of him.