

Worship with us this Sunday, July 14

Sunday's service is youth-planned and led. They, and some of the adult delegates to Mennonite Convention 2019, will share highlights of their week with us, along with music the youth enjoyed. The Scripture will be John 20: 19-22.

This Sunday is our 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.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters	Juergen & Meredith Schroeer
Welcome Table	West: Need Volunteer
Ushers	Wilma Dyck
Sermon	Shelly, Jordan & Emma King; Lotus Hershberger
Worship Leader	Youth
Song Leader	Youth
Accompanist	Youth
Scripture Reader	Youth
Children's Time	Youth
Children's Song Leader	Randy & Holly Zehr
Technology	Caleb Augspurgen
Toddler Nursery	Miriam Kennel
Preschool Nursery	Neely Family

This Week at MCN

Wed July 10	Financial Stewardship 7:00 pm
Thu July 11	Next Man Bible Study 6:15 am Outreach Committee 5:00 pm Pre-Service Prayer 9:00 am
Sun July 14	Worship 9:30 am Christian Education at Sugar Grove Nature Center 10:45 Christian Education for Adults 11:00 am
Tue July 16	Staff Meeting 9:30 am Youth Ministry Committee 6:30 pm

Prayer Requests

For Dustin Fisher and family as Dustin undergoes proton therapy following surgery to remove a brain tumor.
For Steve Stenger as he undergoes quadruple bypass surgery this week.
Special thanks for the life of Lotus Hershberger as he turns 80 this week.
Ruth Haney asked for prayers for her daughter who has had colon surgery this week.
Sophie Charles Dick and family as they move to Portland where she has accepted a job as Program Manager at the Morrow Center for Peace & Justice.
Replacements for coordinators for the Alternative Gifts Fair
Marge Nester's family as they celebrate the life of her brother Howard.
The victims of the recent earthquake in CA
Meredith Satchwell gives thanks for the support of the church in her study and career path. She has completed her BS in Nursing, and obtained her nursing license and employment at Carle Foundation Hospital .

Birthdays

AUGSPURGER, Adam 07/10
HERSHBERGER, Lotus 07/12
ROPP, Cindy 07/12
WIEBENGA, Terry 07/17

Anniversaries

HEDBERG, Andy & Denise (20) 07/10
FRIESEN, Jon & Janelle (27) 07/11
BRANDON, Heath & Helen (12) 07/14
DRISCOLL, Darin & Katie (20) 07/17

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. The office hours will be

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.

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.

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 not last long.

2019 Relief Sale Financial Summary

Total Sale Revenues	\$ 275,746	\$ 267,152
Total Sale Expenses	138,875	141,954
Sale Net Proceeds	\$ 136,871	\$ 125,198

Distributed Funds:

Mennonite Central Committee	\$ 116,000	\$100,000
Local Needs Organizations	29,000	25,000

Approximately 20% of the Sale Net Proceeds has been distributed among 23 relief organizations within central Illinois to provide food for the needy. More than 2,000 people enjoyed the chicken & fish dinners and about 2,500 attendees had the pancake & sausage breakfast.

A big thank you to all who worked at or attended another successful Relief Sale.

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

Shalom, Ronn Frantz

FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

Everyone is invited to Menno Haven Camp on August 11 (no service that day at MCN) for our annual Sunday at Camp. Scheduled events include a worship service at 10:30, followed by lunch in the dining hall. The camp offers many activities (swimming, boating, hiking, fishing, gymnasium, etc.)and refreshing spots to rest and converse. For those who wish to arrive early or stay late, campsites are available.

This is a wonderful place to be immersed and refreshed in God's creation!

More details and registration coming soon.

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

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

“Everywhere I looked, hope existed - but only as some kind of green shoot in the midst of struggle. It was a theological concept, not a spiritual practice. Hope, I began to realize, was not a state of life. It was at best a gift of life.”

– [Joan D. Chittister](#)

Building Use

Wednesday, July 10

Back to Basics Training

Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Saturday, July 13

Overeaters Anonymous 10:00 am

Monday, July 15

Al-Anon 5:30 pm

Wild Ones Board Meeting 5:30 pm

Wild Ones General Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 17
Back to Basics Training
Overeaters Anonymous 5:00 pm

Today's Chuckle

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," the pastor said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner."

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist.

Midweek Connection for July 10, 2019