



*Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world*

Midweek Connection at MCN

Aug. 14, 2019

## Worship with us this Sunday, Aug. 18

Scriptures: Mathew 12:43-45, I John 4:7-18

Sermon: Hosting and housekeeping: Choosing love over fear

The parable from Matthew 12 hinges on housekeeping. One might well ask, "so what is the problem with a clean house?"

## Serving this Sunday

Greeters

Erin or JB w/ Clara Ponnou-Delaffon

Welcome Table

West: Joe Culpepper

Ushers

Juergen Schroeer

Sermon

Marianne Israel, Reeser family

Worship Leader

Pastor Tim

Song Leader

Kay Reimer

Accompanist

Cindy Ropp

Scripture Reader

Dorothy Loepp

Children's Time

Erin Ponnou-Delaffon

Children's Song Leader

Shelly King

Technology

Melika Hershberger

Toddler Nursery

Adam Augspurger

Preschool Nursery

Lucy Unzicker

Lexi Neely



## This Week at MCN

Wednesday, Aug. 14  
6 pm Pastoral Council

**Thursday, Aug. 15**

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

**Friday, Aug. 16**

Quiet Retreat begins

**Sunday, Aug. 18**

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

11 am Share Your Passion

12 pm Child Protection Meeting

12 pm Spending Plan Review

**Tuesday, Aug. 15**

9:30 am Staff Meeting

6:30 pm Youth Ministry

---

## Prayer Requests

**From Aug. 11**

--John Stutzman passed away last Friday. His Memorial Service will be at MCN on Thursday, Aug. 29 at 10 am. Erma's address is 407-530 Columbia St. West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2T0B1, Canada

--Amy Arkel requests prayers for her son Cole Waggoner and his family. Cole's dad, Jason, has driven him to AZ to go to the Children's Postinfectious Autoimmune Encephalopathy (CPAE) clinic in Tucson on the 15th to try to get better cause of his infection/autoimmune illness and a better treatment plan. They ended up in the ER last night in Albuquerque. It's been an extremely rough three weeks after a very rough two years. Josh is struggling with dealing with a brother with a severe illness that takes so much of the time away from our family. Amy/Josh had to cancel a planned trip due to Cole's ER trip.

---

## New Arrival

The MCN family has a new member: Emma Jane Belzer was born on Aug. 8th at 2:50pm. She weighed 7lb 10oz and was 20.5 in long. Parents are Keith and Kayla Belzer.

---

## Visits to Our Members in Nursing Homes

Please remember in your prayers, or with cards or a visit, the following members in nursing homes:

Ruth Marquis - Heartland (on Clinton)

Lloyd Combs - Martin Health Care

Jo Ropp - McLean County Nursing Home (Ron would appreciate mentioning visits to him.)



## **Anniversaries**

Doug Valverde & Joanan Oyer (26) 8/14/19

David & Abby Warfel 922) 8/16

Tim & Sue Schrag (42) 8/20

## **Birthdays**

Marjorie Nester 8/19

Ron Ropp 8/19

---

## **Email glitch**

The email account that Laurie uses (church@normalmennonite.org) experienced a glitch last Friday and all email back to July 24 was lost. Our tech person has not been able to recover it. If you sent something that needs some type of action please re-send it. We are sorry for any problems this creates.

---

## **Spending Plan Review Information Sessions Announced**

Where does your donation go? What programs and outreach are being supported by our Spending Plan? The Board has asked the Financial Stewardship (FS) Committee to review our Spending Plan, and make recommendations for any changes, especially in outreach. The FS Committee would like to give you information about our current Spending Plan, and some research into the spending plans for similar churches. The FS committee will be taking questions and suggestions, also. That information session is planned for noon Aug. 18 and will be repeated at 11 a.m. and at noon on Sept. 8.

---

## **Sign up to bring something**

In next week's Midweek we will have a link to Sign Up Genius for folks to offer to bring menu items for the Sept. 1 farewell meal for Pastor Tim and Sue. The menu includes smoked ham, roasted potatoes and green beans. Sign-ups are to provide a salad or a pie. Questions can be directed to Marge Weaver.

---

## **Memory Book for Tim and Sue Schrag**

Thank you to all who submitted pages for the Memory Book. The book has been put together and there is still room in the book for additional pages. If you took a blank page and have not yet submitted it, please bring it to the church office and put in the box on the table designated for Memory Book sheets. Additionally, there is still time to pick up a blank page, complete and return it to the church office.

If you have questions, please talk with Stephanie Company or Mary Ann Watkins

---

## **Books!**

Please return to me any books that I've loaned you. Also, notify me if I have books of yours that should be returned.

Thanks, Pastor Schrag

---



## Share Your Passion Sunday ~ Aug. 18

Everyone high school age and under is invited to share something on Aug. 18 during the Sunday School hour. Participants can choose to put something on display and/or perform something in the program at 11. Performances might include instruments, singing, theater, etc.; exhibits will be on display all morning also showcasing artwork, hobbies, anything that interests you! We hope that many children and youth will sign up to share something. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094FAAA87>

or on the sign-up that will be posted at church. Everyone is welcome to sign up for both a display and something to perform!

---

### Hymnal Orders

There are three options for ordering hymnals: 1) Personal copies for yourself or others (not tax deductible), 2) Copies in Honor/Memory of Someone for the church (tax deductible) and 3) Copies as gifts for the Church (tax deductible). All hymnals are \$22. If you have any questions about placing your order, see Pastor Jane or Laurie.

---

### 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:

- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 eraser (such as pink pearl)
- 12 colored pencils (in package)
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 4 spiral or perforated page ONE SUBJECT notebooks (8.5x10.5 in) 70 sheets. (DO NOT BUY 5 SUBJECT NOTEBOOKS)

1 small ALL METAL pencil sharpener (MENNONITE WOMEN WILL SUPPLY THE SHARPENERS; THEY CAN BUY THEM IN BULK THROUGH AMAZON). Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because they are poor quality and do not 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.

---



## 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, Aug. 25** will be Tim's final sermon as pastor of 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 opportunity to bid farewell to the Schrags.

**Sunday, Sept. 1** 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 at noon and there will be special gifts and words of appreciation presented to Tim and Sue. This will be our final farewell to Schrags.

For those who plan to make a monetary gift in honor of Tim's retirement you may do so through normal giving methods to the church office. Please note that these gifts must be received no later than Sunday, Aug. 25.

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



## 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.

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!

---



## 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

The Central District Conference 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](#).

---



## Office Hours, Deadline

To email Laurie (office manager) use [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org).

### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9-4  
Friday 9-12, 1-4

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

---

## Voice of the Day

The concept which assumes that everything in the Church is irrevocably set for all times appears to me to be a false one. It would be naive to disregard that the Church has a history; the Church is a human institution and like all things human, was destined to change and evolve; likewise, its development takes place often in the form of struggles.

- Edith Stein

---



## Building Use

Wednesday, Aug. 14  
5 pm Overeaters Anonymous  
Saturday, Aug. 17  
8 am HAAQG  
10 am Overeaters Anonymous  
Monday, Aug. 19  
5:30 pm Al-Anon  
Tuesday, Aug. 20  
7 pm Cantus Novus

---

## Today's Chuckle

A man wrote a letter to a small hotel in a town he planned to visit on his holiday.

He wrote: I would very much like to bring my dog with me. He is well-groomed and very well-behaved. Would you be willing to permit me to keep him in my room with me at night?

An immediate reply came from the hotel owner, who wrote: Sir, I've been operating this hotel for many years. In all that time, I've never had a dog steal towels, bedclothes, silverware or pictures off the walls. I've never had to evict a dog in the middle of the night for being disorderly. And I've never had a dog run out on a hotel bill. Yes, indeed, your dog is welcome at my hotel. And, if your dog will vouch for you, you're welcome to stay here, too.