



Midweek Connection at MCN

Aug. 21, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Aug. 25

Scriptures: Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon: Not an ending but a beginning

This great text of the church, often used as a benediction, is in fact about beginnings.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

Rick & Annette Harnish

Welcome Table

West: Mary Dyck

Ushers

Mary Ann King

Sermon

Larry & Louise Reeser, Eric & Chellie Miller

Worship Leader

Pastor Tim

Song Leader

Jan Miller

Accompanist

Jenell Ulrich

Scripture Reader

Chris Culbertson

Children's Time

Shannon Neely

Children's Song Leader

Louise Reeser

Technology

Phil Hoffman

Toddler Nursery

Adam Augspurger

Preschool Nursery

David/Gabriella Harnish

Duane/Stephanie Nester



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Aug. 22

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Aug. 25

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

Cake and punch in honor of Tim and Sue Schrag

Tuesday, Aug. 27

9:30 am Staff Meeting

5 pm Peace & Justice Committee

Service for John Stutzman confirmed

The memorial service for John Stutzman will be Thursday, Aug. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Mennonite Church of Normal. There will be visitation for one hour prior to the service. Erma's address is 407-530 Columbia St. West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2T0B1, Canada.

Prayer Requests

From Aug. 18

---Steve Stenger announced he is happy to be back in church and grateful and thankful after open heart surgery for five bypasses.

--Andy Heberg thanked everyone who attended worship at Menno Haven and the tour of Hungry World Farm.

-- Phil Dick announced Henry Dick and Sophie Charles and family are settling in in Portland, OR. Henry had a break down during rush hour during the last five miles of the move.

-- Gail and Nancy Fisher have a continued request for prayer: We are thankful for all of your continuing prayers for our son Dustin Wyse-Fisher and his family. He has completed a third of the proton (radiation) therapy at Northwestern, a two hour-ten minute drive from Eureka. The treatment is approximately 15 minutes in length each evening. He is currently teaching at ICC on Mondays only.

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

Deborah Spacek - Evergreen

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

Announcement from Church Board

On behalf of the Board, I (Cindy Ropp) have two matters to bring before you this morning (Aug. 18, 2019).

The first concerns Transitional Ministry. In the last several months, you have heard the terms transitional ministry and intentional interim. We have been informed that the correct term is Transitional Ministry, and we will use that as we move forward.

Per conference and denominational guidelines, the calling of a transitional minister comes from the supervising body of a congregation, in our case the Church Board. This process includes receiving recommendations from the conference minister, conducting interviews, and calling a Transitional Minister.

At this time, the Board has selected a Transitional Minister and a verbal agreement has been made. We hope to have the signed copy within a few days.

Beginning in January of 2020, Pastor Gary Martin will be joining us as Transitional Minister.

Gary Martin is licensed and credentialed through Central District Conference. He is a graduate of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, Indiana.

He has served as an instructor at AMBS, in Church Development for Central District Conference, and as Director of Development at Chicago Mennonite Learning Center.

Beginning in 2005, Gary has served as Transitional Pastor with 9 separate congregations including Silverwood, College Mennonite, Middlebury, and Indianapolis in Indiana; Roanoke in Illinois; Franconia in Pennsylvania; Central Mennonite in Archbold, Ohio; and most recently, St. Louis Fellowship in Missouri. Gary also leads Transitional Ministry training across the denomination.

Gary's experience and his significant interest in our congregation well equip him to provide the support and direction we are seeking during this time of transition.

More information and details of his intended work here will be presented at a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept.29.

And now to the second item:

It is the role of the Church Board to craft and set policy for the church. To that end, early in 2018, the Board initiated a process to discern God's will for our congregation regarding our relationship with persons who identify as LGBTQIA+. A Design Team was created, and we engaged in learning, listening, discussions, and prayer. Input was gathered in a variety of venues from persons in the congregation - talking and listening around tables, individual conversations, corporate prayer, and through the written word.

Today, I bring before you the two new policies that will guide our life together moving forward. These policies are aspirational in nature and speak to God's call for our congregation.

Based on church-wide discernment, the Church Board believes the Mennonite Church of Normal aspires to be a safe and welcoming congregation for all, as aligned with our Vision Statement.

By unanimous agreement, the Church Board adopts the following policies effective Aug. 13, 2019.

All people of any race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal.

Furthermore,

All people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at the Mennonite Church of Normal.

We thank you all for walking this long journey. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with conviction, for listening carefully, and for praying for the Design Team, the Board, and this congregation. It is today that we mark a new future moving forward as we seek to grow into this new vision. It will require intentional work. The Board is actively looking at what this might mean for us, and we will be sharing more about this with you at the congregational meeting in September.

Copies of these new policies are being placed in your mailboxes and will be ready for you to take home at the close of worship.

May God be with us all in the days ahead.



Anniversaries

Joe and Ellen Culpepper (49) Aug. 23

Ron and Jo Ropp Aug. 26

Birthdays

Deanna Moshier Aug. 23

Dorothy Loepp Aug. 27

Randy Zehr Aug. 27



Update on laundry detergent bottles

MCN was asked to collect empty, clean liquid laundry detergent bottles by Midwest Food Bank for a 600 gallon bulk delivery of laundry detergent. Bottles will be collected until Midwest Food Bank asks us to stop - in approximately two to three weeks. Empty water or milk jugs etc. are NOT acceptable. Please watch for further announcements in Midweek, on our Facebook page and announcements during worship.

Lost and Found

A ring that may be a wedding band was turned into the office months ago. If you are missing a ring please call or come to the office and describe it. We really want to find the owner of this ring. Thanks.

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 11 a.m. and at noon on Sept. 8.

Sign up to bring something

The farewell dinner for Tim and Sue Schrag will be served after worship on Sunday, Sept. 1. Ham, roasted potatoes and green beans will be provided. Please sign up to bring a pie or a fruit or vegetable salad. Also please RSVP with the number who are eating. We will use Sign Up Genius to sign up for the dish you are sharing and to RSVP. The link is below. Please respond by Aug. 29. If you don't have access to the internet call the church office and ask Laurie to sign you up. 309-452-6622. If you have questions please contact Marge Weaver.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA4A723A5FA7-farewell>

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. The book will be presented on **Aug. 25**.
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

Greetings from Portland

It has been an eventful few weeks for our family, but we're finally landed and getting settled in our new place in Portland. Thanks for all of the thoughts, prayers, and moving help from many of you over the past few weeks! We miss you already. If you're ever in Portland, please look us up!

-Sophie, Henry, Moses, & Mimi
6026 NE 12th Ave.
Portland, OR 97211

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.

College and Universities Fair announced

There will be a Mennonite Colleges and Universities Fair on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 5 pm at the Mennonite Church of Normal. Area youth groups and the MCN MYF are invited.

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. The Memory Book will be presented during the worship service on this Sunday. 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.

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9-4

Friday 9-12, 1-4

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Hope, Love. Courage

Prayer

Pray for the Cure

Thursday, Sept. 5

6:30-7:30 pm

St. John's Lutheran Church

1617 E. Emerson St., Bloomington

Guest speaker: Sonja Reece

"Having Breast Cancer Three Times is Enough"

Voice of the Day

"The answer to injustice is not to silence the critic but to end the injustice."

-Paul Robeson



Building Use

Wednesday, Aug. 21

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, Aug. 24

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Aug. 26

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Aug. 27

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother, in her weak, tremulous voice, said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me anything!"

