



Midweek Connection at MCN

Aug. 28, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Sept. 1

Scriptures: Hebrews 13:1-8; John 16:7, 12-13

Sermon: A Pensive Farewell by Rev. Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference Minister

Welcome Interim (part-time) Pastor Jim Bortell

We welcome church neighbor and retired United Methodist pastor Jim Bortell this Sunday to his part-time ministry with us for September-December. Jim will work approximately 10 hours a week, focusing on preaching, pastoral care and some office coverage. Beginning Sunday, Jim may be contacted at jimbortell@gmail.com or 309-830-5897.

Serving this Sunday

Greeters

Shannon Neely

West: Emma King

Welcome Table

Mary Dyck

Ushers

Andy & Beth Reeser, Lotus Hershberger & Shelly King

Sermon

Doug Luginbill

Worship Leader

Lynette Miller

Song Leader

Barry Weaver

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepf

Scripture Reader

Louise Reeser

Children's Time

Darrel Miller

Children's Song Leader

Melika Hershberger

Technology

Caleb Augspurger

Toddler Nursery

Adam Reiman

Preschool Nursery





This Week at MCN

Thursday, Aug. 29

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study
9:30 am John Stutzman Visitation
10:30 am John Stutzman Memorial Service
5 pm Leadership Selection Committee

Sunday, Sept. 1

9 am Pre-service Prayer
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Blood Pressure Checks
10:45 Christian Education for Children
11 am Christian Education for Adults
Dinner in honor of Tim and Sue Schrag

Monday, Sept. 2

Office closed

Tuesday, Sept. 3

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 4

5:30 pm Wellness Committee

Service for John Stutzman

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. 25

--Mary Dyck asked for prayers for her sister, Sue and brother-in-law, Brad and their family as they deal with Brad's early onset Alzheimer's including a serious car accident.
--Joe Culpepper shared a joy - he and Ellen's 49th wedding anniversary.
--Phil Dick asked for prayers on the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved people being brought to the U.S. from Africa and the race issues we are still working to resolve.
--Cal Hubbard also share a joy - he and Vivian are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.
--Ron Ropp shared another anniversary joy - he and Jo have been married for 63 years.
--Carleton Bakkum asked the congregation to acknowledge and affirm Tim and Sue's ministry in light of Tim's retirement.

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 - Heritage Health
Lloyd Combs - Martin Health Care
Deborah Spacek - Evergreen
Jo Ropp - McLean County Nursing Home (Ron would appreciate mentioning visits to him.)



The Big Give

During the month of September, MCN will join 16 area churches in collecting food for The Big Give when Home Sweet Home Missions and the Midwest Food Bank partner to provide area families in need with a turkey and a box of fixings for Thanksgiving. Please bring items on the list ONLY and place them in the shopping cart in the entryway. The Big Give will provide 2,000 to 2,500 meals which will impact 10,000 people.

SHOPPING LIST

Boxes of Stuffing Mix
Cans of Green Beans
Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup
Boxes of Mashed Potatoes
Envelopes of Gravy (No jars, please.)
Regular Cans of French Fried Onions
Cans of Cranberry Sauce
Boxes of Pie Crust Mix
Cans of Pumpkin Pie
Cans of Evaporated Milk



Anniversaries

Bob & Mary Kaufman (64) Aug. 28
Leo & Bess Desch (60) Aug. 30
Henry Dick & Sophie Charles (5) Aug. 30
Cal & Vivian Hubbard (50) Aug. 30
Lloyd & Aldine Combs (63) Sept. 1

Birthdays

Alice Swift Aug. 29

Joseph Dick Aug. 30

Victor Belzer Sept. 1

Lena Driscoll Sept. 1

Aldine Combs Sept. 2

Leah Roeschley Sept. 2



Tim's email

Please remove Tim from all your church distribution lists. Also note that his email (tim@normalmennonite.org) is being discontinued. Please start using Tim's personal email address timschrag1953@gmail.com Thank you.



Books - first come/first serve

The books remaining in Tim's office are free for the taking first come/first serve. Help yourselves! Tim has already boxed up the books he is taking with him. See Laurie in the church office if the office is locked.

Illinois MDS Annual Meeting

Sept. 7, 10 am-1 pm with lunch, at Arthur Mennonite. RSVP to Gerry Schrock.



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>

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. Large print are \$44 a piece. 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.

Late Summer Neighbors' Meal

All are invited to share in the Late Summer Neighbors' Meal at Hungry World Farm, Thursday, Aug. 29, at 6:15 pm, 19183 Plow Creek Road, Tiskilwa. Bring food to share. Table service and water provided. The meal will be followed by a brief learning video and updates from the Farm. Come on out to share food, conversation, learning and community.

The summer gardens continue to produce bountifully. The tomatoes are outstanding in texture and taste.

A new international intern has arrived from Tanzania this week. Maiga will be with the farm for eleven months. Welcome Maiga!

Also, mark your calendars for the Hungry World Farm Grand Opening on Saturday, Sept. 28. All are welcome! Admission is free. Here's the schedule:

3:00 Gathering

3:15 Welcome

3:30 The Origin of Corn and Other Tales of Agricultural History, story telling performance by Brian "Fox" Ellis

4:40 Farm Tours/Walk around, Children's Activities and Food.

Check with Andy Hedberg if you have any questions.



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, 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.

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

Sam's Club Card

MCN has renewed its Sam's Club membership and the card is sales tax exempt. If you are making purchases for the church, you are welcome to check it out from the office.



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

Church office will be closed Monday, Sept. 2.

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

We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Building Use

Wednesday, Aug. 28

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, Aug. 31

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Sept. 2

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Sept. 3

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

An outspoken atheist went on a tour of a local monastery during his vacation.

At the end of the tour, he remarked sarcastically to the monk who had been his guide, "Imagine, if God doesn't exist - and I believe He doesn't - you will have wasted your whole life here in this place."

The monk replied: "If I am wrong, I shall have wasted only 60 to 80 years. But if you are wrong, you will waste eternity."