



Midweek Connection at MCN

Sept. 18, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Sept. 22

Scripture: Psalm 42:1-11

Sermon: The Pantry of the Soul by Pastor Jim Bortell, Interim Minister

Welcome Interim (part-time) Pastor Jim Bortell

We welcome church neighbor and retired United Methodist pastor Jim Bortell 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. Jim may be contacted at jimbortell@gmail.com or 309-830-5897.

Pastor of Visitation Ron Ropp

Pastor Ron Ropp is assisting the Mennonite Church of Normal as Pastor of Visitation for the next few months. Welcome Ron to your new roll. He is available for hospital visits, as needed.

Interim Office Hours

Pastor Jim Bortell will usually be in the church office Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 11 am for anyone who would like to stop by to talk with him.

Serving this week

Greeters

Lois Hochstetler & Mark Alsene

Welcome Table

West: Mary Jantze

Ushers

Juergen Schroeer

Larry & Louise Reeser, Connie Reeser-Hall, & Lotus Hershberger

Sermon

Jim Bortell



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

Marge Weaver
Glenn Wilson
Denise Hedberg
Juergen Schroeer
Holly Zehr
Phil Hoffmann
Caleb Augspurgen
Kristy Hoffman
Lucy Unzicker



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Sept. 19

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

6 pm Midwest Food Bank

Sunday, Sept. 22

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

Tuesday, Sept. 24

9:30 am Staff Meeting

5 pm Peace & Justice

5 pm Leadership Selection Committee

Prayer Requests

From Sept. 15

--Laura Dick asked for prayers for people suffering from hurricane damage and asked us to be on the side of all who are suffering and let them in. Laura shared that her grandfather came from the Abaco Islands - part of the Bahamas.

--Condolences. We've had word that Zizi Gomes' father died suddenly at home in the Congo. Zizi and her husband Aime Loso, and their children, Nathan, Aimaizi and Andrea, worshiped with us for a few years after they came from the Congo. They moved to Iowa about a year ago. Notes or cards of condolence would mean a lot: Zizi Gomes, 1153 Lantern Sq, #6, Waterloo, IA 50701.

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.)

Stay tuned...

There will be an information session on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 pm to discuss a possible tenant for the space formerly used by Head Start and ways to continue quality Adult Christian Education.

Archivist/Historian needed

MCN is in need of an archivist/historian. If you are a good fit for filling this important role in the church please let a Church Board member know.



The Big Give for the Widow's Cruse in September

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

Glenn & Lorene Busenitz (56) Sept. 21

Birthdays

Sophie Charles Sept. 18

Meredith Satchwell Sept. 19

Emmanuel Kasongo Sept. 20

Dorothy Zehr Sept. 20

Nancy Fisher Sept. 21

Joe Culpepper Sept. 22

Lynette Miller Sept. 22

Meredith Schroeer Sept. 22

Joanna Oyer Sept. 23

Brandon Reeder Sept. 23

Apples

After 16 years, the Millers are retiring from active apple farming. We are grateful for all the help from our church family, and good memories of the many harvests and pruning events, throughout the years.

Although the trees weren't pruned or spayed this year, there are a number of good apples available. A community harvest day is not planned, but apples will be picked for the Relief Sale pies and also given to local charities.

You're welcome to come pick apples for your personal use. If interested, we ask that you:

Call or text Eric (309.831.6585) or Chellie (309.212.2408) before you come so we have an idea of who be picking and when you will be there, bring your own bags or containers, don't pick up any apples from the ground. Try to come out during the next two weeks while apples are in their best condition. Enjoy!

Our Church Library Needs You

Our church library is in need of someone who loves books and can spend up to a few hours a month helping tend ours. The key tasks that need a volunteer(s) are: processing new books into the Library as well as re-carding and re-shelving returned books. This is a wonderful resource for our congregation that we want to keep using - might you feel the nudge to help?

Mennonite Disaster Service Trip to Pine Ridge, SD

Mennonite Disaster Service Trip to Pine Ridge, SD, is set for Nov. 3-9 and Nov. 10-16. Lois and Wayne Hochstetler will be Unit leaders in Pine Ridge during October and November and are inviting volunteers from MCN to join them for a week of fellowship and service work. Info about Pine Ridge project here.

<https://mds.mennonite.net/pine-ridge-south-dakota/> Let Pastor Jane know if you would like to serve.

Seeking Planner for Longest Night Service

Seeking Planner for Longest Night Service. Let Pastor Jane know if you would have interest in planning a Longest Night Service this year, usually held around Dec. 20, to honor that the holidays are not always "happy" for everyone. This is a good opportunity for quiet prayers, scriptures and hymns to help us hold on

to faith in hard times.

Blood Pressure Checks

Carrie Fisher will do blood pressure checks this coming Sunday during the Sunday School time.

Fall Menno Haven Work Day announced

This fall's Menno Haven's Work Day is on Saturday, Oct. 12. We would love to have people from your church join us for a day of working together and meeting others who love Menno Haven. Work Day starts with breakfast at 8 am and finishes around 4 pm. Feel free to come for all or part of the day.

This is a day to clean after the summer groups and to prepare the facilities for winter. Possible activities are winterizing cabins, deep cleaning in the hotels and dorms, washing windows, splitting firewood and moving it to storage sheds, and finish hanging plywood on the Shop walls and ceiling.

If you know of anyone from your church planning to come to Work Day, can you let us know by emailing me at sheena@mennohaven.com or calling the Menno Haven office at 815.646.4344. This helps us plan job tasks and lunch needs. Thanks so much!! We hope to see you here. Folks from MCN can contact Marge Weaver for a ride or more info.

Alternative Gifts Fair Coordinators sought

Alternative Gifts Fair Coordinators. This congregation has been so generous in support of ministries around the world via our annual Alternative Gifts Fair each November - a chance to "give gifts" to those you love that do good for others. With both Sophie and Abby moving away, we are in need to new coordinators. Might God be calling you? Let Pastor Jane or Phil Dick know if you feel the nudge!

Also, Photos Needed

Jennifer Steiner from Midwest MCC would like to have an article about our Alternative Gifts Fair in the October MCC electronic newsletter In Touch. If you have a good photo or two of people (especially children) clustered around a booth, or other great photos, and can email them to Meredith Schroeer, that would be great. Thank you! Jennifer would like these by early next week.

Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society Fall Meeting

Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society Fall Meeting - Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10 am. After the brief business meeting, Cal Zehr and Dennis Zehr from Hungry World Farm will present the vision, mission, and objectives of the farm effort. A light lunch will be served at the conclusion of this presentation. If you have friends who are interested in global food needs, but are not members of the IMHGS, be free to invite them to come.

Volunteer Opportunity at Midwest Food Bank

Come join in an evening of fun, fellowship and service!

Where: Midwest Food Bank, 2031 Warehouse Rd., Normal

When: Thursday, Sept. 19 from 6-8 pm

Who: anyone 5 years and older

Signup: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094aa4a723a5fa7-midwest> or contact the church office

Questions: contact J'ne Augspurger

Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others.

A new Church Year gives us an opportunity to review how we can be part of the work and mission of Mennonite Church of Normal. We also can affirm others in whom we see God's gifts for serving on our Committee. Please complete the Offering My Gifts and Affirming the Gifts of Others forms by Sept. 22. The Leadership Selection Committee and many others who give leadership to groups and projects thank you! Due Sept. 22.

[Click here for forms.](#)



Family Concert with Bryan Moyer Suderman

Friday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 pm
at MCN

Reading the Bible With Jesus Seminar

Saturday, Oct. 12
9 am- 4 pm
at MCN
(\$10 for lunch)

Part of a whole weekend of teaching with Bryan Moyer Suderman. What can followers of Jesus today learn from Jesus' approach to Scripture? Journey together into Scripture with Jesus. Explore what Jesus might say to us about our lives, our world and the hard issues facing the church today. Reading the Bible with Jesus an inspirational day of Gospel Bible Study with Bryan Moyer Suderman. Please register at church@normalmennonite.org. NO registration fee; Lunch is \$10 payable at the door. Questions:

Jobs Partnership Gathering Sept. 19

Friends of Jobs Partnership,

State Senator Jason Barickman will speak at the next Joy Care Jobs Partnership Gathering. Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner will also attend. This meet and greet event will be from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on Thursday, Sept. 19 at the Heartland Community Church at 1811 North Linden Street, Normal. These gatherings help us link Jobs Partnership with the local faith community. This gathering will provide an opportunity to interact with people who have been incarcerated who are being integrated into our community. I hope to see you there.

Phil Dick, for the Joy Care Center's Jobs Partnership Board

Seeking full size bed

In search of a gently used full bed for a church family member or funds to purchase a full bed. If anyone can help with this, please contact Lauren Satchwell at 309-830-6827 or satchwell.lauren@gmail.com. Thanks!

The Glenn Wilson/Chip Stephens Jazz Duo

Glenn Wilson and Chip Stephens will be presenting a FREE concert at the Normal Theater this Saturday, Sept. 21 at 7 pm. The concert is a CD release party for their new recording "Sadness and Soul" on the Capri jazz label. The recording is released on Oct. 18, but CDs will be available at this pre-release concert.

Welcoming Immigrants, Refugees and Others on the Margins

Hopedale Mennonite Church

Sept. 21

10 am - 3 pm

Speaker: John Garland, Pastor at San Antonio Mennonite Church

You're invited to a time of learning and sharing with John Garland, pastor of San Antonio Mennonite Church. John will speak about his congregation's response to migrants in their community, with focus on what they have learned about Good News for people with experience of trauma and living outside the law. John also will explore with us our response to people on the margins of our own communities. Join us in a time of learning together from John and each other. The program will include a time of lunch and fellowship. Please reply to office@hopedalemennonitechurch.com or call 309-449-6600 if you plan to attend.

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.

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.

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.

Hungry World Farm Grand Opening

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, storytelling 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.

Hungry World Farm Shares Needs

Here are a few items that Hungry World Farm could really put to use? This is mainly geared to farmers that might have items sitting around in a shed or barn that they might consider donating to Hungry World Farm.

Wanted:

22+ - Wood posts, 8 feet or longer and 6 inches or more in diameter. These will go into hoopbarn walls.

200 - Steel fence posts - For sheep and goat pasture.

And, woven wire rolls are also needed for more fences.

If someone has these items that would like to donate and see them reused for years to come please contact Dave Bell, Lead Animal Farmer, 815-303-4295, bellsy1954@gmail.com or, Cal at 815-878-5487, cal@hungryworldfarm.com. One other project we could use some help with soon is burying water/electrical lines and replacing windows in the Farm Learning Center.

Hungry World Farm vision continues to grow. An MCC Internal Volunteer Exchange Program young adult arrived last week from Tanzania. Maiga will learn and work for the next 11 months. Please pray for the Lord's will to unfold as Hungry World Farm works on startup, planning and action. Pray for ample finances and excellent personnel. The fund raising, organizing, development and planning continues. Pray for Stephan - Lead produce farmer, Dave - Lead animal farmer, Resident Volunteers, and Maiga, Tom, the interns, as they work and learn at the farm.

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, Thursday and Friday 9-4

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Voice of the Day

Making sense of painful experiences is sacred work. It asks us to respect our own time, space, and language. These are the unique fingerprints of our own healing.

- Rebecca Ray



Building Use

Wednesday, Sept. 18

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, Sept. 19

6 pm HAAQG Sewing Mentoring

Saturday, Sept. 21

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Sept. 23

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Sept. 24

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

Two paramedics were dispatched to check on a 92-year-old man who had become disoriented. They decided to take him to the hospital for evaluation.

En route, with siren going, they questioned the man to determine his level of awareness. Leaning close, one asked, "Sir, do you know what we're doing right now?"

The old man slowly looked up at him, then gazed out the ambulance window.

"Oh," he replied, "I'd say about 50, maybe 55."