



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

Midweek Connection at MCN

Sept. 25, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Sept. 29

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-18

Sermon: Expressing Feeling in Religion by Pastor Jim Bortell, Interim Minister

The variety of ways people of faith express their feelings and how this calls for a lot of love and understanding.

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

Barry & Marge Weaver

West: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table

Mary Jantze

Ushers

Adam & Caleb Augspurger, Andy & Beth Reeser

Sermon

Jim Bortell

Worship Leader

Kay Reimer

Song Leader

Cindy Ropp

Accompanist

Dorothy Loepp

Scripture Reader

Barry Weaver

Children's Time

Gail Fisher

Children's Song Leader

Melika Hershberger

Technology

Caleb Augspurger

Toddler Nursery

Amy Reiman

Preschool Nursery

Lexi Neely





This Week at MCN

Thursday, Sept. 26

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Sept. 29

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

Tuesday, Oct. 1

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Prayer Requests

From Sept. 22

--Gail and Nancy Fisher ask for continued prayers for their son, Dustin Wyse-Fisher and his family, following brain tumor surgery in late May. He has completed proton (radiation) therapy at Northwestern and has returned to teaching. He will begin four rounds of chemotherapy (infusion and oral medication) within the next few weeks. Our hope is that he will tolerate it well, as he did the radiation.

--Prayers are requested for Julie Musselman's mother, Lorraine Landis, age 98, of Souderton, PA who has been in the hospital for several days for a variety of tests.

--Barry Weaver asked for prayers for the people of Haiti who are still suffering the effects of a major hurricane even though it has been nine years.

--Joe Culpepper asked for prayers for Mike Ball and friends who are on the same bike ride that he just completed. Mike is married to Laurie Vial, MCN office manager.

--Juergen Schroerer called attention to the climate strike. He said he was in Northfield, MN and he was touched by a student who said it is a privilege to demonstrate.

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.)

MCN would also like to develop a list of those who are "shut-ins" in their home. Please contact the church office to add them to this list so we can pray for them and uplift them in other ways.

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.

World Communion Centerpieces

Communion on Oct. 6 for World Communion Sunday will be served from our round tables. Pastor Jane is looking for items that could be arranged on the tables that have an international flavor. If you have something you might share that day for one of the Tables, please let Pastor Jane know.

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

Robert & Evelyn Reeser Sept. 27
Phil & Laura Dick Oct. 1

Birthdays

Beth Reeser Sept. 25
Lydia Wilson Sept. 25
Shannon Neely Sept. 30
Cole Waggoner Sept. 30

Choir Accompanists Needed

Due to some changes in people's schedules, we do not have accompanists yet for the Junior, Youth and Adult choirs this fall. Do you know anyone we could talk to about volunteering for one of these opportunities? Please let Louise Reeser or Pastor Jane know.

Creation Care Confab

Periodic info and musings to help open conversations about God's amazing Creation

Check out this podcast series about climate justice and the church: [Shifting Climates](#). This series comes to us from the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, a collaborative initiative of Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College and Mennonite Central Committee to lead Anabaptist efforts to respond to the challenges of

climate change. Check with Andy Hedberg if you want to discuss this podcast series or have suggestions for a future CCC (Creation Care Confab).

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 week 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?

FREE Workshop Performance of a New Musical Brooklyn's Bridge

Book and Lyrics by Ray Roderick, U-High and ISU Alum

Music by Joseph Baker

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.

Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall (Illinois State campus)

Janet Wilson has facilitated this project and plays a small role in the workshop performance.

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. Roger Clemmons will be the MCN coordinator during the first week.

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.

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.

Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society Fall Meeting

Illinois Mennonite Historical and Genealogical Society Fall Meeting - Saturday, Oct. 5 at 10 am at 675 State Rt. 116, Mennonite Museum, Metamora. 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.



Family Concert (\$5 suggested donation) with Bryan Moyer Suderman

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

Family Meal at 5:30 pm. Please RSVP by calling or texting 309-826-8731 or emailing Dorothy Zehr at dot@dzehr.com or using [sign-up genius](#). (donation welcome)
Following concert Youth Jam Session with Bryan

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: jane@normalmennonite.org

Sunday, Oct. 13
Bryan will be with us in 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.

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

Mark your calendars for the Hungry World Farm Grand Opening on Saturday, Sept. 28.

All are welcome!

Admission is free.

1:30 pm - 2 Mile Farm Fun Run/Walk Registration

2:00 pm - 2 Mile Farm Fun Run/Walk

3:00 pm - Gathering & Welcome

3:30 pm - The Origin of Corn and Other Tales of Agricultural History, storytelling performance by Brian "Fox" Ellis

4:30 pm - Farm Tours / Walk Around, Children's Activities, Goat Yoga and and Hog Roast Dinner with all the fixings

Check with Andy Hedberg if you have any questions or if you need a ride to the Farm for the Grand Opening.

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. Consider donating to the Replace the Windows Fundraiser through GoFundMe: [CLICK HERE](#). The windows were damaged when a gas line exploded, destroying the house next door.

Hungry World Farm vision continues to grow. An MCC Internal Volunteer Exchange Program young adult has arrived 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 changing Sept. 30 through Oct. 8

Lynn Reha will cover the office while Laurie is on vacation. She will be there 9 a.m. to noon on

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday except Oct. 3 when the office will be closed.

Thanks Lynn for helping out !

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Voice of the Day

Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans and myself from the community of sinners.

-Miroslav Volf



Building Use

Wednesday, Sept. 25

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, Sept. 29

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Sept. 30

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Oct. 1

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

At a wedding I recently attended, the priest called for a moment of silence to remember the faithful dead...As the church grew quiet, a little boy sitting in front of me turned to his father and said excitedly, "Dad, you have some of their albums!"