

Midweek Connection for Sept. 11, 2019

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Midweek Connection at MCN

Sept. 11, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Sept. 15

Scriptures: Numbers 6:24-27 Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: What's a Blessing? by Pastor Jim Bortell, Interim Minister

The need to be blessed is universal. It is to our emotional and spiritual makeup, what food and oxygen are to our existence.

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	Shannon Neely & Mary Dyck
	West: Lois Hochstetler
Welcome Table	David Voegtlin
Ushers	Adam & Caleb Augspurger, Kristen Satchwell, & Ardys Serpette
Sermon	Jim Bortell
Worship Leader	Lynn Reha
Song Leader	Wayne Hochstetler
Accompanist	Elsa Raab
Scripture Reader	Rita Munkakusi
Children's Time	Darrel Miller
Children's Song Leader	Shelly King
Technology	Caleb Augspurger
Toddler Nursery	Sarah Nichols
Preschool Nursery	Jordan King



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Sept. 12

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study
9 am Pastor Peer Group
6 pm Pastoral Council
6 pm Youth Ministry Committee

Sunday, Sept. 15

9 am Pre-service Prayer
9:30 am Worship
10:45 Christian Education for Children
11 am Christian Education for Adults
5 pm Mennonite College Showcase

Tuesday, Sept. 17

9:30 am Staff Meeting
5 pm Leadership Selection Committee
6:30 pm Youth Ministry Committee

Prayer Requests

From Sept. 8

--Jenell Ulrich asked for prayers for her daughter-in-law Amy and family. Amy's father died last week after

a 10-year battle with thymus cancer.

--John Bertsche shared a joy - Helen Brandon has been nominated for Teacher of the Year in Illinois.

--Holly Zehr asked church members and friends to consider volunteering at Sheridan School.

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 in the early evening 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

Kari and Jason Harvey (7) Sept. 15

Birthdays

Linda Clemmons Sept. 13

Darin Driscoll Sept. 13

Andy Heberg Sept. 13

From Letters & Comments Mennonite World Review

Model of preaching

A new pastime has come my way: listening via the internet to a dozen or more sermons a week, the majority from Mennonite Church USA venues. The best of these preachers discovered so far is retiring at the end of August. His name is Tim Schrag, who has been serving the Mennonite Church of Normal, Ill., for some years. He is always well prepared and explores issues thoroughly but still keeps within the 20- to 25-minute optimal length, has a pleasant voice and manner, is obviously a good Bible student and speaks both authoritatively and humbly. It seems appropriate that his talents and service be recognized beyond the congregation.

Delmar Yoder
Decatur GA

About our Interim Pastor....

Pastor Jim Bortell is a retired United Methodist minister. A native of Peoria, he prepared for ministry at De Pauw University, Yale Divinity School and the University of Debuque at Aquinas Institute. Jim served several churches in Central, IL, later as a District Superintendent and retired after 12 years as senior pastor at First United Methodist Church of Normal. In retirement, he was pastor of Carlock Mennonite Church. Jim is a Master Naturalist, a program of the University of Illinois. He teaches environmental ethics and write a weekly email called "Green Thoughts." He shares his life with his wife, Roberta and sons Tim (Linda) and David (Andrea) and grandchildren Amber, Sean, Brenna and Elise. Jim and Roberta live at the MRC. He will usually be in the office at 11 am weekdays except Wednesdays.



Helen Brandon, BJHS Teacher Named Teacher of the Year

finalist

PANTAGRAPH STAFF

Sep 5, 2019

BLOOMINGTON – Helen Brandon, a sixth-grade math and science teacher at Bloomington Junior High School, has been named a finalist for the Illinois Teacher of the Year program.

"I am just completely humbled and honored," she said. "Teaching is what I love to do so to be honored for doing something that you love feels pretty incredible."

She is one of 10 finalists, with the winner named Oct. 19 at a banquet in Normal. Other finalists are from schools in Palatine, Elmhurst, Olney, Northlake, Matteson, Aviston, Rockton, Belleville and Springfield.

Brandon said she is thankful to work in a supportive district, surrounded by welcoming students and guardians, and thankful that she "can be the educator I want to be."

"As teachers, we work so hard because we love it and we love our kids and we love our community that we get to work in," she said, adding being honored for her work is "like icing on the cake."

The winner will represent Illinois in the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Teacher of the Year program.

The program is overseen by the Illinois State Board of Education, which said the finalists "include educators with a variety of backgrounds ranging from an Air Force pilot to a teacher who hands out free instruments to students in the hallway to inspire a passion for music."

Finalists are selected by a committee of administrators, teachers, educational service personnel, student support personnel, and past Illinois Teachers of the Year. The final selection is made by the state superintendent.

"Being a teacher means being a leader, a creative thinker, a problem-solver, a caregiver, an advocate, and a bridge between students and their futures," said State Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala.



Tim and Sue's email and snail mail:

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

Also, Tim and Sue wanted to share their new address:

timschrag1953@gmail.com

sue.s1954@gmail.com

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 414

Goessel, KS 67053

Street address

510 Sunflower



Books - first come/first serve

The books remaining in Tim's office are free for the taking first come/first serve. Help yourselves! See Laurie in the church office if the office is locked. Deadline Sept. 11.

The office staff will box up the remaining books - we are looking for a volunteer who is driving to Bluffton to take the books to a bookstore there. If you are willing to help please let Laurie know. Thanks!

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: jane@normalmennonite.org

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

The Glenn Wilson/Chip Stephens Jazz Duo will perform Thursday, Sept 12 at ARC - 600 E. Willow Street, Normal from 4:30-5:30 and at Green Top Grocery 921 E. Washington, Bloomington from 6:30-8 pm. Both concerts are FREE and open to the public.

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.



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. 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.

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.

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

Form is never static, form is always forward motion and moving. So whatever form we are in now, we will not always be ... The forms that exist are ultimately for reformation, reforming that which was and making something new.

- William Matthews (Interlude: New Forms)



Building Use

Wednesday, Sept. 11

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, Sept. 14

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Sept. 16

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Sept. 17

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

On Sunday, the new young pastor arrived at church and found only an old farmer had shown up.

After waiting a while, the disappointed the pastor remarked to the old farmer, "Well, it appears no one else is coming, so we should probably cancel service today"

The farmer, dressed in his Sunday best, looked at the young preacher and said, "Well pastor, I don't know much 'bout preachin', but I do know something bout farmin' and if I went out in the field and found only one cow, I'd still feed 'em"

This excited the young preacher who preached for the next 45 minutes a fierce fire and brimstone sermon. Afterwards the pastor asked the old farmer what he thought.

The old farmer remarked, "Well pastor, I don't know much bout preachin', but I do know somethin' 'bout farmin' and if I went out in the field and found only one cow, I wouldn't give 'em the whole bale."

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