



Midweek Connection at MCN

Oct. 3, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, October 6

Scripture: Matthew 26:31-35; 69-75

Sermon: "Flawed but Faithful" by Guest Pastor Reverend Paul Unger

This Sunday's sermon on "Flawed But Faithful" has to do with the personality of Simon Peter to be both imperfect and yet to be the one Jesus chose to be the head of the early church. And we will look at the same reality in each of us to be both incomplete and still striving for wholeness. Just call me Simon!"

Rev Paul Unger is a retired Methodist minister and friend of Pastor Jim, having served several locations here in Illinois.

He currently resides at Westminster Village.

Communion will be served this Sunday. The Bible teaches that we are to "examine ourselves" in preparation (1 Cor 11:27-29). Our Mennonite forebears took seriously the idea of being fully at peace with God and one's Christian brothers and sisters in order to partake. Let us prepare with similar prayerful reflection and personal examination.

A reminder about announcements on Sundays: **Send or Bring Your Announcements to Pastors Jim or Jane.** Please give or send all Announcements you want publicly shared during Community Life to Pastors Jim or Jane.

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 Pastoral 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.

Office Hours for Church Office for Sept 30-October 8

While Laurie is on vacation, Lynn Reha will be in the church office mornings from 9-noon.

Serving this week



Greeters	Mary Jantze & Joe Culpepper
Welcome Table	West: Mary Dyck
Ushers	Wilma Dyck
Sermon	Larry & Louise Reeser
Worship Leader	Eric & Chellie Miller
Song Leader	Jim Bortell
Accompanist	Mike Company
Scripture Reader	Barry Weaver
Children's Time	Else Raab
Children's Song Leader	Kay Reimer
Technology	Helen Brandon
Toddler Nursery	Melika Hershberger
Preschool Nursery	Rick Harnish
	Miriam Kennell
	Adam Reiman



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Oct 2

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Oct 6

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

Tuesday, Oct.8

9:30 am Staff Meeting

1:30 pm Worship Committee

5:00 pm Peace & Justice Committee

5:30 pm Church Board

Prayer Requests

From Sept. 29

--Please continue to pray for Shannon Unzicker, who is recovering from an infection which caused a hospital stay last week.

--Please continue to pray for returning health for Kristen Satchwell, who is recovering from an illness which resulted in a hospital stay last week.

--Prayers are requested for Nicholas Neely and family. Nick is adjusting to new medications.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to the family of Art Headley. He passed away on Sunday, September 29.

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.)

Roy Jiles - Evergreen

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.



Anniversaries

Emmanuel Kasongo and Marlphonsia Kimbembe (7 years) Oct 6

Birthdays

Pam Dick Oct 2
Juergen Schroeer Oct 2
Phil Stalter Oct 2
Miriam Dick Oct 3
Keith Unzicker Oct 4
David Harnish Oct 5
Zander Doblosky Oct 6
Katie Driscoll Oct 6
Theresia Kasongo Oct 6
Clarence Oyer Oct 9

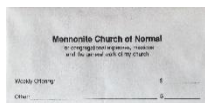
Choir Accompanists Needed

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.



16th Annual Alternative Gifts Fair at MCN

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... Ok, not quite, but it's not too early to mark your calendars for the 16th annual Alternative Gifts Fair, to be held on two Sundays, November 10 and 17. Families and Sunday School classes interested in preparing a booth to highlight a project offering these gifts of hope, please check out (and then return!) the Mennonite Central Committee and Alternative Gifts International catalogs in the church library. Contact Amy Reiman or Erin Ponnou-Delaffon if interested in helping with a booth. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve the poorest of our brothers and sisters.



Offering Envelopes

Could you please tell the church office how many offering envelopes you need for 2020? Making the office aware of your specific needs helps us save money and paper. Please complete the green slip that was put into your mailbox and leave it in the basket on the Entry Table. Or call Laurie in the church office and let her know how many you need. Thanks for helping us be economical.

Creation Care Confab

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

"Be it resolved that members of Mennonite Church USA commit to growing in their dedication to care for God's creation as an essential part of the good news of Jesus Christ." *Adopted by delegates at the Mennonite Church USA's biennial convention on July 5, 2013.* To see the entire resolution document, check here: http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Creation_Care_Resolution_Adopted_July20131.pdf 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!

Pavilion

On Sunday, September 22, Eric Miller provided information to the congregation about the Church Board's plans to construct a pavilion. His remarks are below. Also, watch this spot in the Midweek for pavilion updates.

The Church Board is pleased to announce that construction of a pavilion on the South lawn will begin soon. This is a piece of the Campus Use Plan affirmed by the congregation in 2013. The Church Board has oversight of the Campus Use Plan and it's our guide as decisions are made regarding our campus. A copy of the Campus Use Plan is displayed in the library.

Late last year, a 5-member planning group was assembled to gather feedback, evaluate design characteristics, and produce detailed drawings, construction timelines and estimates at varying cost levels and features for a pavilion which maximizes potential uses and aesthetics while considering our Mission Statement.

A 30' x 40' pavilion was approved and will be built to blend in with the church building and campus and include: maintenance-free siding, cedar posts, some brick work, metal roof and a concrete floor. It is designed to accommodate a number of events associated with our church, including: youth group events, Cluster group gatherings, SS classes, picnics, congregational meetings, small concerts and community events. It is also designed to incorporate future enhancements, such as pull down sun shades, a mini-stage and enhanced lighting, if needed

Joe Haney and Roger Clemmons have agreed to oversee the construction process, which should begin within the next few weeks. Construction was originally planned for June, but weather and unforeseen planning issues delayed the process. Volunteers will be needed for a few tasks, so be looking for volunteer invitation announcements, as they are made available.

Funds currently in the Campus Use escrow account will be utilized for construction, but an anticipated \$6,000 will need to be raised to complete the project. If you would like to contribute financially, please indicate 'Pavilion' or 'Campus Use Fund' on your contribution.

The Board is excited about the opportunities for community, fellowship and outreach this new outdoor venue will provide! We look forward to this new addition to our campus. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to any board member.

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. 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.

Finish Strong

A presentation about end-of-life options by Barbara Coombs Lee, author of Finish Strong: Putting YOUR

priorities First at Life's EWnd will be held Monday, October 7, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Alumni Center of Illinois State University, 11-1 N. Main Street, Normal. RSVP online at <http://bit.ly/FinishStrongNormal>

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 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 International 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.



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!

Request

Does anyone have an old Windows laptop computer to give away? Call or text Ross Hershberger at 309-660-0710



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

Thanks Lynn for helping out !

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Voice of the Day

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them you may be a blessing. *George Fox*



Building Use

Thursday, Oct 3

5:30 HAAQG Board Meeting

6:30 HAAQG General Meeting

Friday, Oct 4

8 am HAAQG Workshop

Saturday, Oct 5

8 am HAAQG Workshop

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

Monday, Oct 7

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Oct. 8

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

The following list of phrases and their definitions might help you understand the mysterious language of science and medicine. These special phrases are also applicable to anyone reading a Ph.D. dissertation or academic paper:

"IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN"...

I didn't look up the original reference.

"A DEFINITE TREND IS EVIDENT"...

These data are practically meaningless.

"WHILE IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE DEFINITE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS"...

An unsuccessful experiment, but I still hope to get it published.

"THREE OF THE SAMPLES WERE CHOSEN FOR DETAILED STUDY"...

The other results didn't make any sense.

"TYPICAL RESULTS ARE SHOWN"...

This is the prettiest graph.