

Midweek Connection for Oct. 9, 2019



Midweek Connection at MCN

Oct. 9, 2019

## Worship with us this Sunday, Oct. 13

Scripture: Matthew 11:1-15

Sermon: "Detective of Divinity" a musical meditation with Bryan Moyer Suderman

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](mailto: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 Minister 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**

John & Kay Reimer

Greeters

Welcome Table  
Ushers  
Sermon  
Worship Leader  
Song Leader  
Accompanist  
Scripture Reader  
Children's Time  
Children's Song Leader  
Technology  
Toddler Nursery  
Preschool Nursery

West: Lois Hochstetler  
Mary Kauffman  
Shelly, Jordan, & Emma King, &  
Lotus Hershberger  
Bryan Moyer Suderman  
Jane Roeschley  
Jenell Ulrich  
Chris Culbertson  
Jane Roeschley  
Brian Moyer Suderman  
Randy & Holly Zehr  
Rick Harnish  
Holly Zehr  
Jeremy Haab



## This Week at MCN

### Thursday, Oct 10

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

### Friday, Oct. 11

5:30 pm Family Meal  
6:30 pm Family Concert

### Saturday, Oct. 12

9 am Reading the Bible with Jesus

### Sunday, Oct 13

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship  
10:45 Christian Education for Children  
11 am Christian Education for Adults  
Noon Lunch and Song Circle with Youth  
Noon EBF&G Design Team Meeting  
6 pm Junior Choir  
6:45 pm Youth Choir

**Monday, Oct. 14**

9:30 am Mennonite Women  
4:30 pm Financial Stewardship Committee

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**

9:30 am Staff Meeting  
6 pm Cluster Leaders Support Meeting

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## Prayer Requests

**From Oct 6**

--Please pray for Ardys Serpettee's son Tim, who is recovering from a fall which resulted in a broken leg.  
--Please pray for the people who will be impacted by our Alternative Gifts.

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## 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.**

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## Retirement Celebration for Jane Roeschley

Please join the Church Board as we celebrate the retirement of Pastor Jane Roeschley and thank her for her many years of service to Mennonite Church of Normal. Her retirement celebration will be different than the one that was planned for Pastor Tim Schrag. Her retirement events have been planned in consultation with her and to reflect her wishes.

**Sunday, Nov. 24**

Pastor Jane will preach and this will be her last Sunday of attendance at MCN (until she returns one day in the future after a year or two away). Included in the service will be an anointing service. Dough Luginbill, CDC Conference Minister, will be here and will lead the Litany of Blessing and Release. Jane's preference for her retirement celebration is for a single Sunday of focus that includes a cupcake reception and short program following the morning worship service. It is the last Sunday of the quarter and there will

be no Sunday School so that there will be time for the reception and program.

#### **Memory Book**

We are asking the congregation to bring retirement cards or notes to be given to Pastor Jane. Bring your cards or notes and leave them in the basket on the table in the office no later than Friday, Nov. 15. The cards and notes will be placed in a book to be given as a gift during the program on Nov. 24. Please do not write on the back of the notes or cards.

#### **Monetary Gift**

If you are interested in making a monetary gift in honor of Jane's retirement you may do so through the normal giving methods to the church office no later than Sunday, Nov. 17. Please designate "Pastor Jane's retirement gift."

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

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#### **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. This meeting is open to all.

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## **American Red Cross**

**Blood Drive**

**Saturday, Oct. 26**

**8 am to noon**

**Mennonite Church of Normal**

**For appointments visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call the church office.**

**Walk-ins Welcome!**

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#### **Camp Friedenswald is going Solar!!!**

Over the past two years, Camp Friedenswald has been working towards reducing our energy use through LED lighting, motion sensors, sustainable purchasing, changing our habits - and more!! Camp has now completed the installation of 180 Solar panels to generate energy to power the Dining Hall, cabins, and other facilities on the main camp. The estimated production of the panels will save over 68,000 kWh of energy annually - roughly 25% of Camp's total energy use. Not only will the panels bring a cleaner, renewable source of energy to Camp, but they will also reduce our annual electric expenses. We continue to make energy improvements throughout the Camp. Gifts toward these our Solar and Energy initiative are

welcomed.

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### **Moms of LGBTQIA+ Children - Support Group**

If there are any moms of LGBTQIA+ persons who would like to be part of a monthly support group here at MCN, please be in touch with Pastor Jane.

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### **Volunteer with SWAP**

Sharing With Appalachian People (SWAP) is a program of MCC Great Lakes, addressing multiple challenges of low-income families in Appalachia, including home repair and personal need. Groups of all ages are an essential component of SWAP's ministry and can now sign up for 2020. Please consider forming a group, large or small, to come and experience a week at one of the locations in West Virginia or Kentucky. For more information go to <https://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/volunteer/swap> or call Angela Maggard at 606-633-5065.

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### **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.

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#### **Anniversaries**

Shannon and Spring Neely Oct. 14

#### **Birthdays**

Clarence Oyer Oct. 9

Alex Shiffman Oct. 10

May Ann King Oct. 11

Kayla Belzer Oct. 13

Franklin Driscoll Oct. 14

Rachel Ropp Oct. 15

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## 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.

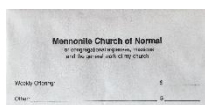
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## 16th Annual Alternative Gifts Fair at MCN

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, Nov. 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](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).

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## 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?

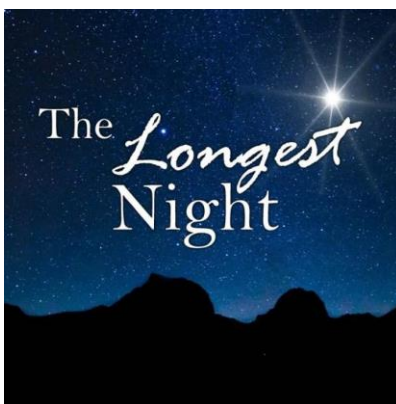
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## Mennonite Disaster Service Trip to Pine Ridge, SD

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.

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### **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.

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### **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](mailto: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.

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**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](mailto:dot@dzehr.com) or using [sign-up genius](#). (donation welcome)

Following concert Youth Jam Session with Bryan

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**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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org). NO registration fee; Lunch is \$10 payable at the door. Questions:

[jane@normalmennonite.org](mailto:jane@normalmennonite.org)

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**Sunday, Oct. 13**

Bryan will be with us in worship.

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**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.

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### **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.

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### **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](mailto:bellsy1954@gmail.com) or, Cal at 815-878-5487, [cal@hungryworldfarm.com](mailto: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.

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### **McLean County Behavioral Health Forum 2019**

The 3rd annual McLean County Behavioral Health Forum 2019 is on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 8 - 4 at the Marriot Conference Center in Uptown Normal. We invite you to attend this free event and choose from 27 breakout sessions and attend a free lunch with a keynote speaker who will address how trauma impacts all individuals within a community. The forum is a great place to learn how to help others and gain additional resources. Find more information and register at [www.mcleancountyil.gov](http://www.mcleancountyil.gov).

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## 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!

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## 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.

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## 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.

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### Office Hours, Deadline

To email Laurie (office manager) use [church@normalmennonite.org](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org).

#### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9-4 and Friday 9-12, 1-4.

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

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### Voice of the Day

Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird,  
That cannot fly.

- Langston Hughes

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### Building Use

**Saturday, Oct 12**

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

**Monday, Oct 14**

5:30 pm Al-Anon

5:30 am Wild Ones Board Meeting

7 pm Wild Ones

**Tuesday, Oct. 15**

7 pm Cantus Novus

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### Today's Chuckle

A Scotsman, planning a trip to the Holy Land, was aghast when he found it would cost one hundred dollars an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee.

"Hoot mon," he said, "in Scotland it wouldna ha been more than \$20."

"That might be true," said the travel agent, "but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord Himself walked."

"Well, at \$100 an hour for a boat," said the Scotsman, "it's no wonder He walked."

