



Midweek Connection at MCN

Oct. 23, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Oct. 27

Scripture: Psalm 118:24-29

Sermon: This is the Day

How can I get out the best that is within me?

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.

Office and Transition Staff Hours and Contact Info

Church Office Hours: Weekdays (except Wednesdays) 9 am - 4 pm

Jim Bortell, Interim Minister (through December); jimbortell@gmail.com or 309.830.5897. Jim is available at the church office at 11 am - 12 pm most weekdays, except Wednesdays.

Jane Roeschley, Associate Pastor (through November); jane@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622 or 815.848.5978. Jane's office days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ron Ropp, Minister of Visitation (ongoing); rjroppbarn@gmail.com or 309.212.2456. Ron is available for hospital visits, as needed.

Laurie Vial, Office Manager; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622. Office Hours are 9 am-4 pm every week day, except Wednesdays when Laurie works remotely.

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader; Satchwell.lauren@gmail.com or 309.830.6827.

Congregational Meeting Nov. 3

I want to first thank all those persons who came to the meeting on Wednesday evening to hear about the proposed use of our facility by The Autism Project. It was a great presentation with

insightful questions. For those of you unable to attend, there are gold information sheets available for you to take on the table in the foyer. The conversation regarding Adult Sunday School was robust and exciting, and it provided suggestions, dreams, and hopes for our congregation moving forward.

Now I want to bring your attention to the upcoming congregational meeting being held on Sunday, November 3, after lunch provided here at the church.

A congregational meeting is designed to include both the presentation of reports and the opportunity for the congregation to respond. It is an important part of membership and a responsibility we ask you to take seriously. Please put this on your calendar now.

During this meeting, there will be four major items presented, and your participation is important.

1. The church spending plan for 2020 will be shared with an opportunity for you to ask for clarification and respond. This spending plan will look a bit different. Though we will have a full-time transitional pastor, we do not anticipate having our new full-time ministerial staff in place for the year. Consequently, some of our numbers will look significantly changed from recent years.

2. The slate of new Board and committee persons will be offered to the congregation for your affirmation. We greatly appreciate the work of those completing their terms and look forward with anticipation to those who are ready to start their work.

3. There will be a brief presentation about Gary Martin, our transitional pastor. This will be an opportunity to learn more about Gary and what his ministry among us may look like.

4. The Board is planning for an opportunity to clarify some misunderstandings and misinformation about the Pavilion Project. As it stands right now, the project is on hold for spring as our changing weather makes the use of the pavilion less likely for the upcoming months. We are wanting to address confusion regarding financing, placement, how this project came about, and how it might reflect our congregation's Vision and Mission statements. It is important that we hear from the congregation regarding your questions and concerns, your hopes and possibilities about this project.

So, in terms of a formal invitation --- Your attendance and participation is requested on Nov. 3 at 1 pm here in the church. Items of great importance to the life of this congregation will be discussed. See you then! Cindy Ropp



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Oct. 24

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Saturday, Oct. 26

8 am-12 pm Blood Drive

Sunday, Oct 27

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

6 pm Junior Choir
6:45 pm Youth Choir
Tuesday, Oct. 29
9:30 am Staff Meeting
5 pm Leadership Selection

Prayer Requests

--Janet Wilson's mother has had a stroke and Janet has gone to be with her - let's keep the family in our prayers.
--John Bertsche received a letter from Muhammad from Mali who was a student at ISU, and later adjunct faculty at ISU. Even though he was a Muslim he worshiped with us. He is now married and lives in Switzerland and hopes to come visit next year.
--Meredith Schroeer said our friend Ruby fell and has lost strength in her leg and knee. She would appreciate phone calls and prayers.

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.



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. Doug 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 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.



Solar panels working! The electricity is flowing out!

The solar panels were on line for 22 of the 30 days for the October electric bill from Ameren. The bill is \$34.95! (The September Ameren bill was \$524.40.) We generated over 1000 kwh more electricity than we used! Our usage for this bill is down dramatically. We are not sure why. Some possible factors: no Head Start, almost all of the lights in the church are now LED, fewer people in the office, some energy conservation efforts, solar panels on the roof keep it cooler. Who knows? We are very thankful for the support for this project.

Impact of Going Solar?

The solar project at MCN has been “energized” just over a month now. What have been the early returns?

- The system has produced more than 6,620 kWh of energy (compared to 5,430 kWh of average monthly usage)
- This has an environment impact of: More than 10,243 lbs of CO2 emissions saved OR the equivalent of 258 trees planted

I'd Like to Buy an Enemy

I'd Like to Buy an Enemy comedy play by Ted & Co. Sunday, Nov. 10, 3 pm at Lincoln Hall Theatre, University of Illinois. Free. This thought-provoking show allows us to laugh at ourselves, while engaging us to consider the influence of America's highly militarized presence in the world, to confront the fear that drives our culture, and to consider how we can work for peace and justice in the U.S. and globally.

Advocate BroMenn - opportunities to serve

At a recent meeting at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, Sue Seibring, volunteer manager, noted there are 78 different ways to volunteer at the medical center. These opportunities include options for once a week, every other week or once a month. There is a flyer on the Volunteer bulletin board at MCN. Check it out and see what might be a good fit.

IWU Jazz Ensemble

The IWU Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Glenn Wilson, presents a free Halloween jazz concert and costume contest with prizes for best costumes and free candy. The concert is Friday Oct. 25 at 7:30 pm in Westbrook Auditorium/Presser Hall.

Church Membership

Pastor Jane will hold an exploring membership session in November. If anyone is interested in becoming an MCN member yet this fall, please let her know.

Proposed 2020 Spending Plan

A major item for the Nov. 3 congregational meeting will be a discussion of the proposed 2020 spending

plan. Hard copies are available in the foyer and [online copies](#) are available by clicking on this link. Come and join in the discussion.



Comforters for MCC: The Great Winter Warm-Up

MCC is celebrating a 100th Anniversary by collecting 6,500 comforters to deliver worldwide to people affected by disaster and conflict. There are two ways to participate: make and donate a comforter to be sent to MCC (instructions here https://mcc.org/sites/mcc.org/files/media/common/documents/2017-10-04_comforter_making_guideline_us.pdf) OR sponsor a comforter through an online donation (www.greatwinterwarmup.org). Some churches are hosting comforter-making parties, too. If interested in that happening here at MCN, talk to Pastor Jane.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

Saturday, Oct. 26

8 am to noon

Mennonite Church of Normal

For appointments visit redcrossblood.org or call the church office.

Walk-ins Welcome!



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.

LGBTQIA+ Safe Space & Ally Group.

If you are interested in forming a group to explore ways to help make MCN be an LGBTQIA+ safe and inclusive space, contact Andy Hedberg. If you want to chat about about the group and hear ideas you can help with, come visit with Andy at the front of the sanctuary right after the service on Oct. 27. We'll be done in time for you to attend Sunday School.

Where do you turn when your family is no longer there for you?

This is a follow up to the prayer request that Andy Hedberg made on Sunday, Oct. 13. If you would like to help students who have lost the financial support of their family after coming out, consider giving to the

ISU LGBTQ+ Student Support Fund. The Fund provides emergency financial assistance for students who lose the financial support of their family due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Funds may also support programs which serve to educate students about the issues uniquely facing LGBTQ+ students.

If you want to make a donation on-line, go to this ISU site: <https://giving.illinoisstate.edu/fund/lgbtq-student-support-fund/>

Creation Care Confab

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

What word do you hear from the Foxglove and the Milkweed,
the Blue Wild Indigo,
the Pale Purple Coneflower, the Coreopsis, the Clover?
Have you heard tell of the fragrant Spicebush and its friend the Swallowtail?
If you get close enough to the Spotted St. John's Wort to see its dotted petals,
can you hear it whispering sweet sustenance to the bumblebees
and the Gray Half-Spot moths?

source: Michael Crosby, pastor, First Mennonite Church Champaign-Urbana, an excerpt from his Reflections from a summer camp pastor: Hearing God's love at Camp Friedenswald as seen in The Friedensword, vol. 27, Issue 2: October 2019

Check with Andy Hedberg if you're interested in learning about, teaching about and/or volunteering for ways to care for God's Creation.

New Green Team Seeks Ideas

The First United Methodist Church of Normal is forming a Green Team. They invite members of MCN to join them for pizza on Friday, Nov. 1 from 6-8 pm for a brainstorming session. The meeting will be held at their church.

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

Aaron & Emily Petri 6 years Oct. 26

Birthdays

Joe Jantze Oct. 23

Don Augspurger Oct. 24

James Brandon Oct. 25

Margaret Hopkins Oct. 25

Sarah Nichols Oct. 25

Clara Ponnou-Delaffon Oct. 26

Jeremie Dedetemo Oct. 28
Addie Zehr Oct. 28
J'ne Augspurger Oct. 29

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.

Cultivating Hope in Anxious Times Oct. 31-Nov. 10

Cultivating Hope in Anxious Times is the inaugural program of the Champaign Urbana (CU) Campus Community Interfaith Exploration, a collaborative effort that builds bridges across local faith communities, the University of Illinois, community groups, campus religious and student life associations, faculty, staff, and administrators. This series begins Tuesday, Oct. 31 and culminates with a weekend of events Nov. 7 - 10. Guests include Dr. Eboo Patel, author, speaker, educator, and interfaith leader, Ted & Company TheatreWorks, and a number of religious scholars, faith, and community leaders.

[Click this link](#) to register to attend Cultivating Hope in Anxious Times and for a full schedule.

Registration is not required, but allows organizers to provide attendees with up-to-date information on the programs. If you require accommodations to participate in these events, please note it in your registration.

On Sunday, Nov. 10 a comedy written by Ted Swartz entitled "I'd Like to Buy An Enemy: The Fear Version" will be presented at Lincoln Hall Theater on the University of Illinois campus at 3 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Beyond Tolerance Panel Part 1: Dinner and Panel Presentation

Friday, Nov. 8 at 5:15pm (Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center, 106 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana)

Panelists from Lutheran (Dr. Mark Swanson), Muslim (Dr. Marcia Hermansen), Jewish (Dr. Jennifer Grayson), and Mennonite (Dr. Safwat Marzouk) institutions.

This panel will focus on moving past tolerance of diversity towards mutual respect and affection for the people, practices, and convictions of faith traditions different from our own. Following the panel, Sinai Temple will conduct its Friday evening Shabbat worship at CIMIC, starting at approximately 7:30 PM. All who are interested are invited to join.

YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
THE IMMIGRATION PROJECT'S ANNUAL

Fundraiser Luncheon

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 2019

ISU Bone Student Center: Ballroom
200 N. University St. Normal, 61761

11:30AM - 1:00PM



Check-in and networking: 11:30AM

Luncheon: 12:00 - 1:00PM

Thanks to our sponsors, the luncheon will be *free*. Your generous gift at the luncheon is very important to the continued success of The Immigration Project.

To RSVP, please visit www.immigrationproject.org or contact Nat Bauer at nbauer@immigrationproject.org by November 8, 2019



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.

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 9-4 and Friday 9-12, 1-4.

Deadline for Midweek Connection and Bulletin is noon on Wednesday.

Voice of the Day

We cannot live in a world that is interpreted for us by others. An interpreted world is not a hope. Part of the terror is to take back our own listening. To use our own voice. To see our own light.

-Hildegard of Bingen



Building Use

Saturday, Oct 26

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

Monday, Oct 28

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Oct. 29

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

A poultry farmer was experimenting to breed turkeys with more legs for greater profits. Finally, he succeeded.

While narrating the results to his friends, he told them, "The turkey I bred had six legs!"

His friends, who had got quite excited, eagerly asked, "What about the taste?"

The farmer said with a long-drawn face, "I have no idea. Can't catch it."



Serving this week

Jordan & Emma King

West: Mary Jantze

Wilma Dyck

Lotus Hershberger, Roger & Linda Clemmons, & Marianne Israel

Jim Bortell

Greeters

Welcome Table

Ushers

Sermon

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

Darvis King
Glenn Wilson
Dorothy Loepf
Marge Weaver
Joe Culpepper
Phil Hoffmann
Rick Harnish
Kristen Satchwell
King Family