



Midweek Connection at MCN

Oct. 30, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Nov. 3

Scripture: Ruth 1:16-21, Philippians 4:11-13

Sermon: "Love Divine and Ills Unlimited"

How can I better cope with life's messy mix of good, misfortune, and evil?

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

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.



Dinner Sunday Before Congregational Meeting

A meal will be served at noon before the congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 3. The meal will be prepared and served by the senior and junior youth and donations are welcome to go toward the next service trip. Thank you in advance for your support!



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Oct. 31

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Nov. 3

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Christian Education for Children

10:45 am Blood Pressure Checks

11 am Christian Education for Adults

Noon Meal

1 pm Congregational Meeting

6 pm Junior Choir

6:45 pm Youth Choir

Tuesday, Nov. 5

9:30 am Staff Meeting

Prayer Requests

--Glenn Wilson reported Janet's mom is still in the hospital and has Alzheimer's and no longer knows anyone. They are not sure if she had a stroke. She is moving this week to a new facility. Janet has this semester off and is able to help out. Glenn's mom, who was given weeks to live in

February, is doing well, her mind is sharp and she is planning on decorating for Christmas

--Helen Brandon asks everyone to be an activist. Her school currently has multiple students who have immigration issues and need our prayers. It is a real problem in our community. Please be aware that it is going on.

--Beth Reeser fell on the ice in January and has been suffering back pain. Surgery will be Nov. 6 and she asks for prayers for a successful surgery and recovering. She also asks for prayers for the whole family. She also asked for prayers for her brother who is affected by the fires in California - they all need our prayers.

--Mary Ann Watkins asked for prayers for she and Paul as they travel to Arizona for the wedding of their grandson, Tyler.

--Doris Shoemaker spoke about Joe's verse from the Psalms - I am so thankful for having the Lord in my life and thankful for this beautiful day that the Lord has made and so thankful to be here this morning.

--Amy Reiman asked for prayers for students and teachers going on a diversity retreat Nov. 6 and 7, for safe travel and focus and kindness. They are trying to equip students to have conversations and relationships that are different (express value) - she asks God's blessing on that.

--Kayla & Keith Belzer said their daughter, Emma Jane, is a joy.

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.

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.

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.



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

Thank you to all who gave of their time and blood to the recent blood drive held at the church. We donated a total of 19 units of blood. This was only half as many units as we usually give. We are not sure why this was lower than usual. We felt discouraged at first but then remembered that each unit serves three persons and so 57 people were helped because of our efforts! We will have our next drive in April and we hope you will plan to share your blood at that time!

Thanksgiving Meal

A message from Marge Nester about the traditional Thanksgiving meal: "For the past fifteen years, I, with my family's assistance, have been in charge of a Thanksgiving dinner open to families in our church and others. It has been a rewarding experience and we have many happy memories. I am now at a place where I recognize I cannot continue to host this. If someone reading this feels moved to take leadership of such a meal, I will be glad to share what I have learned over the years. Thank you to the many people that joined us over the years!"



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. In the meantime, here's an excellent series about gender and sexuality from Fr. Richard Rohr: [link](#).

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/>



**Please note this cell phone number for Wilma Dyck 309-212-5219.
She is cancelling her landline number.**

Creation Care Confab

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

Check with Andy Hedberg if you're interested in learning about, teaching about and/or volunteering for ways to care for God's Creation. Let Andy know if you'll be attending the Green Team meeting on Friday at First United Methodist Church of Normal (see details below).

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

Darvis & Shelly King (23 years) Nov. 2

Birthdays

Ramona Augspurger Oct. 31

Vincent Belzer Oct. 31

Lynn Reha Nov. 1

Evelyn Kasongo Nov. 2

Caleb Augspurger Nov. 3

Noah Engel Nov. 5

Tim Schrag Nov. 5

Ethan Wright Nov. 5

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!

Free Concert

Further Jazz, Inc. presents a FREE concert, Friday, Nov. 1 at the Normal Theater - 7 pm featuring Almost A Quintet and vocalist Tania Coombs. Almost "A" Quintet, based in Champaign-Urbana combines strong backgrounds in classical, contemporary art music and jazz with folk, gypsy, gypsy jazz, tango and klezmer. Tania's bio is here.

<http://www.taniaarazicoombs.com/bio.html>



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

Observe constantly that all things take place by change, and accustom thyself to consider that the nature of the Universe loves nothing so much as to change the things which are and to make new things like them. For everything that exists is in a manner the seed of that which will be.

-Marcus Aurelius



Building Use

Saturday, Nov. 2

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

Monday, Nov. 4

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Nov. 5

7 pm Cantus Novus

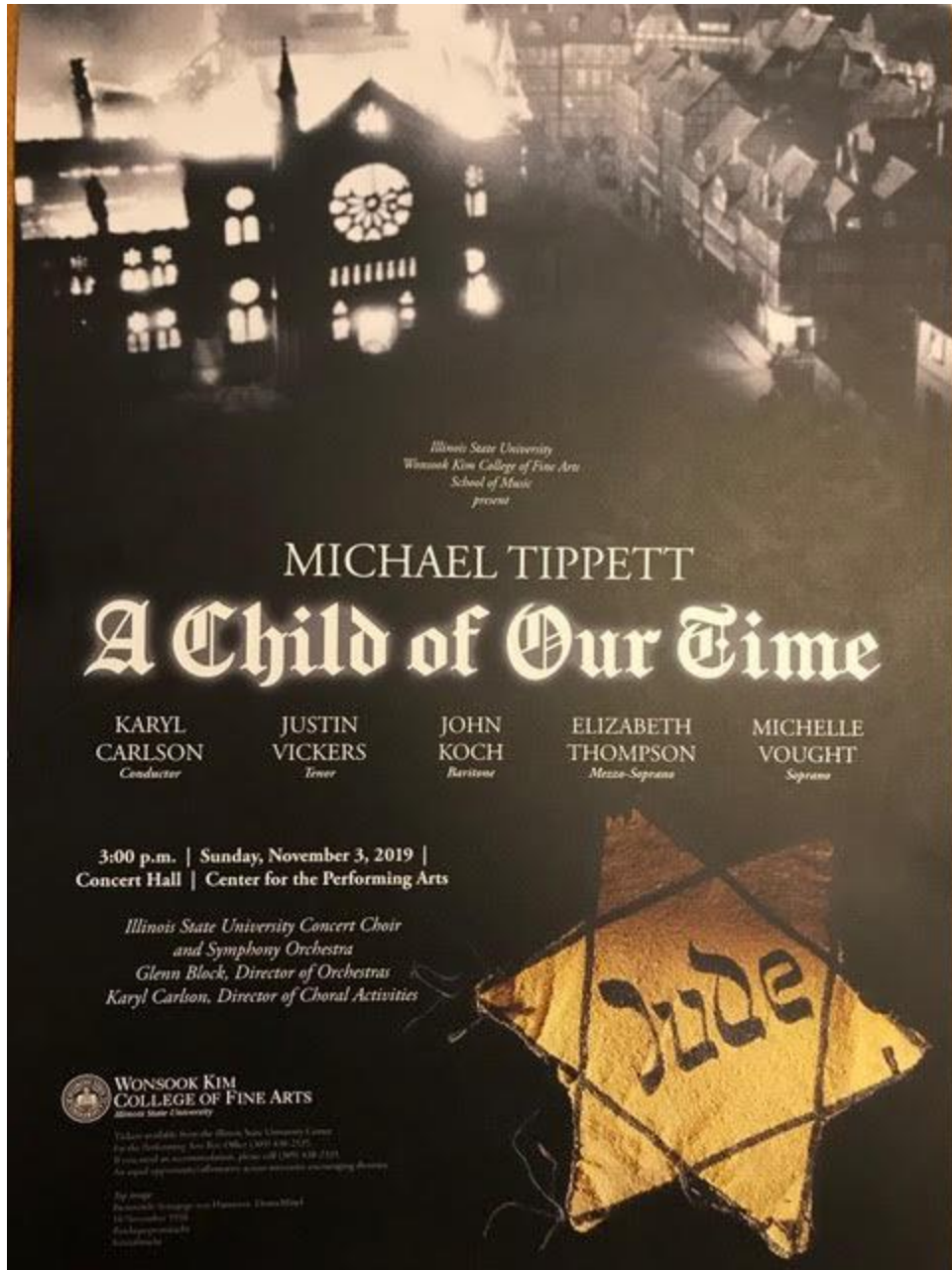
ISU Choral and Orchestra Concert

Date: Sunday, Nov. 3

Time: 3 - 5 pm

Cost: \$6 - \$10

<https://events.illinoisstate.edu/event/choral-and-orchestra-concert/>



Today's Chuckle

Today's Stock Market Report

Helium was up.

Feathers were down.

Paper was stationary.

Fluorescent tubing was dimmed in light trading.

Knives were up sharply.

Cows steered into a bull market.

Pencils lost a few points.

Hiking equipment was trailing.

Elevators rose, while escalators continued their slow decline.

Light switches were off.
Mining equipment hit rock bottom.
Diapers remain unchanged.
Shipping lines stayed at an even keel.
The market for raisins dried up.
Coca Cola fizzled.
Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.
Balloon prices were inflated.
And batteries exploded in an attempt to recharge the market.



Serving this week

Greeters

Rick & Annette Harnish

Welcome Table

West: Joe Culpepper

Ushers

Marge Weaver

Sermon

Adam & Caleb Augspurger, Andy & Beth Reeser

Worship Leader

Jim Bortell

Song Leader

Darrel Miller

Accompanist

Barry Weaver

Scripture Reader

Chris Culbertson

Children's Time

John Reimer

Children's Song Leader

Shelly King

Technology

Melika Hershberger

Toddler Nursery

Randy Zehr

Preschool Nursery

Lucy Unzicker

Adam Reiman