



Midweek Connection at MCN

Nov. 20, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Nov. 24

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Sermon: That You Might Have Power, Pastor Jane's farewell message to the congregation

Baptism and New Members. Pray for Adam Reiman, who is being baptized in this Sunday's worship service, and for the following people who will be joining Mennonite Church of Normal as members - Jeff and Amy Reiman, Stephanie Nester and Ben and Caroline Roeschley. Please offer them your welcome after the worship service.

Anointing for Blessings and Power. As part of Pastor Jane's final sermon this Sunday, there will be a time of Anointing for Blessing and Power, to help our congregation journey forward, with God's power and blessing, for our life and ministry in the years to come. This is for anyone who wishes to receive it - children and adults. There will be four stations, and you may receive the sign of the cross with oil on your forehead or the back of your hand. More details during the worship service.

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.



Special Hours and Deadlines the Week of Thanksgiving

Deadline for the bulletin and midweek will be noon on Tuesday, Nov. 26. If you can submit items earlier it is appreciated. The church office will be closed on Thursday and Friday. Laurie will work at the church office on Wednesday, Nov. 27 instead of remotely. Thanks!

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.



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Nov. 21

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

5 pm Outreach Committee

Sunday, Nov. 24

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 Reception and program for Pastor Jane

6 pm Junior Choir

6:45 pm Youth Choir

Tuesday, Nov. 26

9:30 am Staff Meeting

5 pm Peace & Justice Committee



From Nov. 17, 2019

--Deb Stenger's brother is very ill and in hospice. Please remember their entire family in our prayers.

--The congregations extended condolences to Barry Weaver on the death of his father. The memorial service will probably be on Dec. 21. Barry thanked the congregation for their love and support.

--Please pray for the families affected by gun violence in California this week.

--Keep the Reiman family in your prayers on the death of Amy's mother.

--Janet Wilson said her mother is physically stable. Janet and her sister are moving her from Virginia to Cleveland, OH to a memory care unit. Their younger sister has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Plus so she is unable to care for their mother. Janet said she is filled with anxiety about the move and appreciates prayers, especially Saturday when they are flying.

--Cindy Ropp shared a joy - that there is a concert here this afternoon. Cantus Novus includes several singers from the MCN congregation. She said she is thankful for the church facility which we share with the community. "We are blessed."

--Prayers are requested for Elsa Raab's daughter, Katara, who had surgery last Friday.



Services for Michelle Denowh, Amy Reiman's mother, will be Monday, Nov 25 at Carmody-Flynn funeral home. A gathering/visitation will take place from 10-noon. The funeral service will be at noon.

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.



Save-the-Date: Surprise Luncheons!

Surprise Luncheons will be on Sunday, Dec. 15! Be a guest, be a host. Sign-up information is coming soon, or use the sheet in your mailbox.

Nov. 3 Congregational Meeting

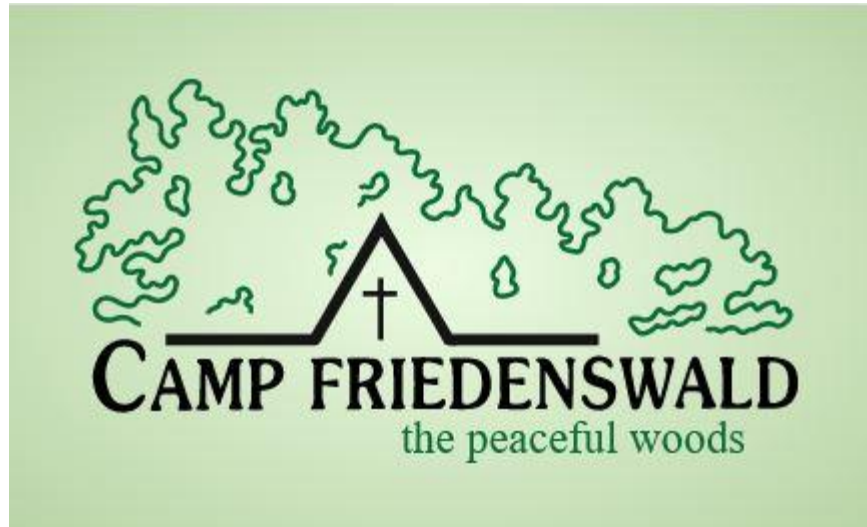
The Church Board has decided to share with the congregation all materials related to the Nov. 3 Congregational Meeting so church members and attenders do not have to wait until the Annual Meeting or Annual Report to see the minutes. The minutes, PowerPoint slides, proposed spending plan (see separate link in this Midweek) and all related materials will be shared as soon as possible by [clicking on this link](#), hopefully by noon on Nov. 21.



Annual Reports are due to the office on Dec. 15.



The Lost and Found area is overflowing. Please stop by and look at all the items and take home anything that belongs to your family. Thank you.



Camp Friedenswald Winter Church Retreat will be Jan. 24 - 26.
Sign-up coming soon!



The Midwest Food Bank is still accepting empty, rinsed laundry detergent bottles. Water and milk jugs will not be accepted. These bottles are used to give away laundry detergent that comes in a 600-gallon drum. Please leave them on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Retirement Celebration for Pastor 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.

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. There will be no Sunday School so that there will be time for a reception and program after worship.

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



**ALTERNATIVE
GIFT FAIR**

Alternative Gifts Fair

Thank you for so generously sharing your time, talents, and treasure to this fundraiser! This year, we collected \$15,728 (\$11,189 for MCC and \$4,539 for AGI). If you intended to contribute but did not have a chance, you can drop off a check made out to the church to Laurie in the office (during the week) or Erin Ponnou-Delaffon (on Sunday) any time through Dec. 1. Help yourself to extra shopping lists in Erin's mailbox if you need them. Thanks again!

Proposed 2020 Spending Plan

Hard copies are available in the foyer and [online copies](#) are available by clicking on this link. It will be approved at the Annual Meeting which is tentatively set for Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.



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.



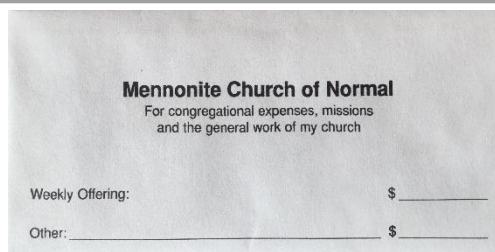
American Red Cross

Thanks to all who helped or donated at our October blood drive. The Red Cross states that donated blood is at a critical low in our community. If you were unable to donate at our drive in October, please consider donating at the Red Cross Center here in Bloomington or at **Our Saviour Lutheran Church** in the morning on Saturday, Nov 23. Many thanks- The Wellness Committee.

Creation Care Confab

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

In case you missed this excellent article – A Path to Solar: Solar power still growing in McLean County – which features our very own MCN with quotes by Larry Schrader: [click on link](#)



Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2020 were distributed. If you forgot to order envelopes and need some

please contact the church office and let Laurie know how many.

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

Joe & Ruth Haney Nov. 24

Birthdays

Adriene Lane Nov. 21

Jo Ropp Nov. 21

Barry Weaver Nov. 22

Rick Yoder Nov. 22

Sylvia Harvey Nov. 26

Evelyn Reeser Nov. 26

Hungry World Farm Fall Work Day Nov. 24

Dear Friends of Hungry World Farm,

As harvest season winds down, and the colder weather arrives, we give thanks for the fruits of another growing season! We invite you to assist us with this seasonal transition during a Fall work day on Saturday, Nov. 23, from 8 am until noon. We would greatly appreciate help with a few projects:

1. Removing brush, restoring overgrown fence lines, and cutting and collecting firewood.
2. Working at a wood splitting / stacking station.
3. Dismantling the small high tunnel, and moving the hay elevator into the barn.

We will begin in the Farm Learning Center at 8 a.m. with a brief welcome and prayer. Coffee and light refreshments will be available there throughout the morning. RSVPs can be directed to andrew.krabill@gmail.com



Please Wear Your Nametag

Please try to wear your nametag at MCN worship and events.
During this time of transition nametags are especially important.

Messiah Sing-A-Long

Illinois State University invites you to the Messiah Sing-A-Long, a fundraiser for Friends of the Arts in conjunction with the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts. Contact mmosier46@gmail.com with questions. Location is the Center for the Performing Arts, Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 pm.



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](#).



See special announcement for Thanksgiving week.
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

Great works are often quiet works.

- Fr. James Martin, SJ



Building Use

Wednesday, Nov. 20

5 pm Overeaters' Anonymous

Thursday, Nov. 21

6 pm HAAQG

Saturday, Nov. 23

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

Monday, Nov. 25

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Today's Chuckle

Witty Quotes About Elections

1. The problem with political jokes is they get elected. –Henry Cate, VII
2. I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them. –Adlai Stevenson
3. Why pay money to have your family tree traced; go into politics and your opponents will do it for you. –Author Unknown
4. George Washington is the only president who didn't blame the previous administration for his troubles. –Author Unknown
5. Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out. –George Carlin
6. There are always too many Democratic congressmen, too many Republican congressmen, and never enough US congressmen. –Author Unknown

7. We stand today at a crossroads: One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other leads to total extinction. Let us hope we have the wisdom to make the right choice. –Woody Allen



Serving this week

South Greeters: John & Kay Reimer

West Greeter: Carol Lou Eisenhardt

Welcome Table: Mary Dyck

Ushers: Eric & Chellie Miller, Ben & Caroline Roeschley

Sermon: Jane Roeschley

Worship Leader: Lynn Reha

Song Leader: Cindy Ropp

Accompanist: Dorothy Loepp

Scripture Reader: David Voegtlin

Children's Time: Joe Culpepper

Children's Song Leader: Phil Hoffmann

Technology: Randy Zehr

Toddler Nursery: David/Gabriella Harnish

Preschool Nursery: Kenayah Tshiseleka