



Midweek Connection at MCN

Nov. 6, 2019

Worship with us this Sunday, Nov. 10

Scripture: Philemon 1:4-22, Psalm 139:7-18

Sermon: Formed and Transformed in Love

by Dr. Rebecca Stoltzfus, president, Goshen College

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.

Meals for Beth Reeser Family

Please use the link to sign up to provide some meals for the Beth and Andy Reeser family when Beth returns home following her back surgery in Dallas. The dates that we would like meals are:

Saturday, Nov. 16,

Monday, Nov. 18,

Wednesday, Nov. 20,

Friday, Nov. 22,

Sunday, Nov. 24.

Contact Mary Ann Watkins with questions. If you need help using Sign-up Genius contact Laurie at the church office. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094AA4A723A5FA7-meals1> or [click here](#).

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.

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.



This Week at MCN

Thursday, Nov. 7

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Nov. 10

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Christian Education for Children

11 am Christian Education for Adults

6 pm Junior Choir

6:45 pm Youth Choir

Monday, Nov. 11

9:30 am Mennonite Women

Tuesday, Nov. 5

9:30 am Staff Meeting

3:30 pm Worship Committee

5 pm Peace & Justice

Prayer Requests

From Nov. 3, 2019

--Prayers are needed for Beth Reeser as she underwent back surgery in Dallas, Texas this week. To send Beth a card the address is 16987 E 775 North Rd, Heyworth, IL 61745 or email bethreeser@gmail.com.

--Prayers are requested for the Al, Pam and John Dick family after the fire at Diesel Dick's this past week.

--Barry Weaver asked for prayers for his family as his 94-year-old father, Harold, who has been in declining health found out he has two unrelated tumors, one of which will probably shorten his remaining lifespan.

--Rick Yoder said he has prayers of thanksgiving after announcing his retirement. He had a number of goals including hiking the Appalachian Trail. He said "I am making progress, I've hiked 120 miles. I've been having a great time - saw some bears. I section hike. I go to a hotel at night. It's going great and I am happy to talk about it and I thank God for my good health."

--Ruth Haney said "we were in Sicily up on a mountain and I was coming down the steps. I went down and fell on my head. This morning when Shelly talked about Hallelujah anyway - Joe said it

could have happened with another outcome. I have to go in for a scan because I have a concussion. But Hallelujah anyway!"

--Nov. 3 was International Day for the Persecuted Church. In 2017 over 3,000 Christians and 800 churches were harmed. Remember our brothers and sisters who suffer because of their faith.

-Please remember Wayne and Lois Hochstetler as they give leadership to the Mennonite Disaster Service project in Pine Ridge, SD. They are closing out the entire project and wrapping up the work and relationships in that place. Plus winter is settling in, which adds its own challenges to the regular work there. They hope to return the week before Thanksgiving.

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

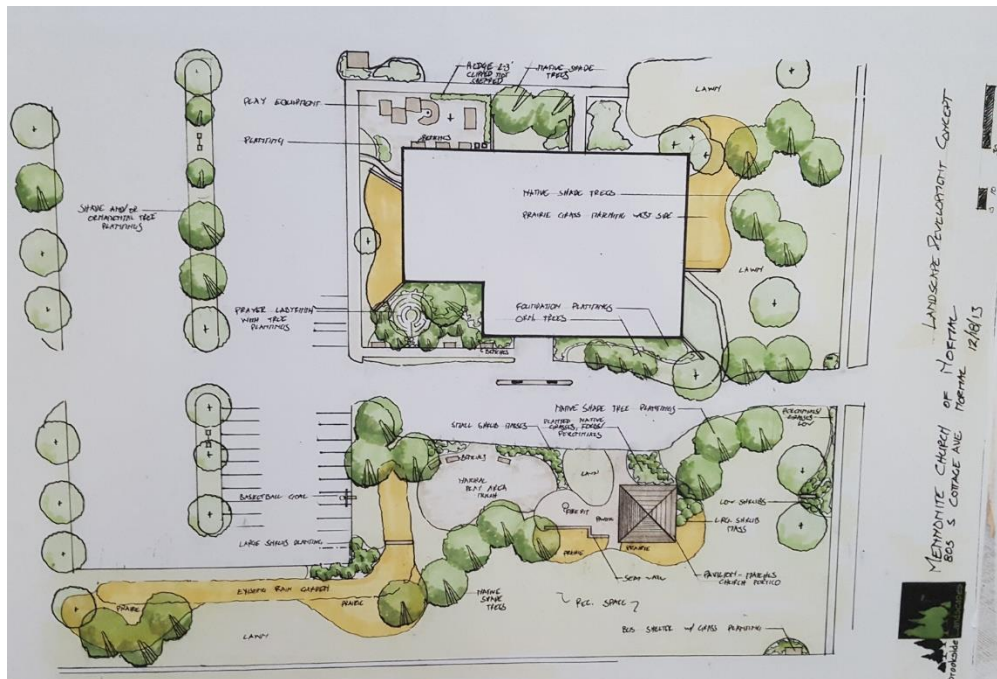
Lloyd Combs - Martin Health Care

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.



The MCN Campus Use Plan drawing will be on display for the next several weeks so everyone can study it.

Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity

Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank

6-8 pm on Friday, Nov. 15. Anyone 5 years and older is welcome!

[\(Sign Up Genius Link\)](#)



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 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.



**ALTERNATIVE
GIFT FAIR**

Alternative Gifts Fair Starts This Sunday:

This Sunday, Nov. 10, marks the first of two Sundays of MCN's 16th annual Alternative Gifts Fair. Time to make your list and check it twice! Fuller descriptions of the projects on the shopping lists can be found in the MCC and AGI catalogs on the library table or online. Cards and inserts describing the projects are available with your donation. You can give any amount to any project, and donations are tax-deductible and will appear on your yearly financial statement. If you have

any questions, please see Amy Reiman or Erin Ponnou-Delaffon. Thank you for your support!



Update from Wayne and Lois Hochstetler. This was taken on Halloween, so we decided we would all dress up as Bob the Builder!

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.



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.



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](#).

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. Here's an excellent article from the Mennonite Creation Care Network:

[Do Churches Matter in the Environmental Crisis?](#)

<https://mennocreationcare.org/do-churches-matter-in-the-environmental-crisis/>

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

Andy & Beth Reeser (16 years) Nov. 8

Birthdays

Janet Gundy Nov. 6

Ian Petri Nov. 7

Cory Culbertson Nov. 8

Henry Dick Nov. 11

Tran Tu Nov. 12

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



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.

Mennonite Mission Network Search Committee

Accepting Applications for Executive Director

“Together, sharing all of Christ with all of creation”

The Mennonite Mission Network Board is seeking an Executive Director to lead Mission Network’s ministry into the next chapter of growth. Mission Network, an agency of Mennonite Church USA, is commissioned to lead, mobilize and equip the church to participate in holistic witness to Jesus Christ in a broken world. The agency envisions all parts of the church being fully engaged in mission - across the street, all through the marketplaces and around the world.

The exceptional Executive Director candidate will use the following leadership skills to fulfill organizational mission and vision:

Cast and communicate a compelling vision.

Foster collaborative relationships, both internally and externally.
Guide innovative change and the development of creative programs and services.
Engage with diverse intercultural and international constituents and partners.
Inspire commitment to God's reconciling mission in the world.

Find the complete position description at
www.MennoniteMission.net/about/employment.

To apply send resume and position application to EDSearch4MMN@gmail.com with "Executive Director Inquiry" in the subject line. All inquiries will be held in confidence.

Voice of the Day

There are two ways to get enough. One is to continue to accumulate more and more. The other is to desire less.

- G.K. Chesterton



Building Use

Wednesday, Nov. 6

5 pm Overeaters' Anonymous

Thursday, Nov. 7

5:30 pm HAAQG Board

6:30 pm HAAQG

Friday, Nov. 8

8 am HAAQG

Saturday, Nov. 9

8 am HAAQG

10 am Overeaters' Anonymous

Monday, Nov. 11

5:30 pm Al-Anon

5:30 pm Wild Ones Board

7 pm Wild Ones

Tuesday, Nov. 12

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

A woman in our diet club was lamenting that she had gained weight. She'd made her family's favorite cake over the weekend, she reported, and they'd eaten half of it at dinner.

The next day, she said, she kept staring at the other half, until finally she cut a thin slice for herself. One slice led to another, and soon the whole cake was gone. The woman went on to tell us how upset she was with her lack of willpower, and how she knew her husband would be disappointed.

Everyone commiserated, until someone asked what her husband said when he found out. She smiled. "He never found out. I made another cake and ate half!"



Serving this week

Greeters

Emmanuel & Tanya Kasongo

Welcome Table

West: Shannon Neely

Ushers

David Voegtlin

Sermon

Roger & Linda Clemmons, John & Kay Reimer

Worship Leader

Rebecca Stoltzfus

Song Leader

Melika Hershberger

Accompanist

Cindy Ropp

Scripture Reader

Elsa Raab

Children's Time

Mark Roeschley

Children's Song Leader

Chris Culbertson

Technology

Randy & Holly Zehr

Toddler Nursery

Randy Zehr

Preschool Nursery

Courtney Yoder

Ian Unzicker