

Weekly Calendar

Today	Pre-Service Prayer	9 am
	Worship	9:30 am
	Congregational Vote	
	C.E. for Children	10:45 am
	C.E. For Adults	11 am
	Surprise Luncheons	
	JMF & MYF	5 pm
	Junior Choir	6 pm
	Youth Choir	6:45 pm
	Adult Choir	7:30 pm
Tues Dec. 17	Staff Meeting	9:30 am
	Youth Ministry	6:30 pm
Thur Dec. 19	Next Man Bible Study	6:15 am
	Organ Tuning	
Fri Dec. 20	Longest Night Church Serv.	7 pm
	Christmas Caroling	5:30 pm

Pastor Ron Ropp is handling interim pastor duties that require pastoral care as well as visitation.

Please join us for the Longest Night Service on Dec. 19 at 7 pm. We will remember that Christ the Light comes in a special way in our physical darkness on the longest night and in our times of loss and pain.

Concert at MCN today at 3 p.m. Sonatas from Bach and Beethoven and folk dances by Bartok with violin and piano. Free. Family friendly.

Communion will be served Dec. 22. The Bible teaches that we are to “examine ourselves” in preparation (1 Cor 11:27-29). Our Mennonite forebears took seriously the idea of being fully at peace with God and one’s Christian brothers and sisters in order to partake. Let us prepare with similar prayerful reflection and personal examination. Please mark your Mutual Aid offering clearly and put them in the offering plate.

Stewardship News

Today’s focus: **Income & Expenses to date**

November : Income: \$57,894.13 WOW!

Expenses: \$26,447.57

Income - Expenses: \$31,446.56

Year to date: (Through November)

Income: \$417,765.53

Expenses: \$409,732.85

Income - Expenses = **\$8,032.68**

The \$50,000 deficit from some months ago is gone! Praise the Lord! Thank you for your generous gifts to the ministry at MCN!

Working together we can finish the year with a positive balance!

Of Note

Announcements Please give or send all announcements and sharing you want shared during Community Life or Sharing to the pastor.

Lost and Found. The Lost and Found area is overflowing. Please check through all the items and take home anything that belongs to your family. They are on a table at the back of the sanctuary.

From our Transition Pastor, Gary Martin, “My priority for the first six weeks, is to visit as many households as possible.” Instructions on how to sign up for a visit, went out in an electronic postcard and a flyer in each mailbox. Sign up will be done with Sign Up Genius but if you don’t have access to the Internet there will be a table with a helper several Sundays in early January.

All-Church Christmas Caroling. Friday, Dec. 20 5:30–7 p.m. Supper is provided. Please bring one to two dozen cookies if you can. We will pass them out to the houses where we carol. Invite friends! If you’d like to go, please use Sign Up Genius. If you have any questions, contact Spring Neely or Chris Culbertson.

Special Congregational Vote today on the “TAP proposal.”

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

Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to a fellowship time after the Christmas Eve Service, Dec 24. Please bring a plate of cookies to share if you can.

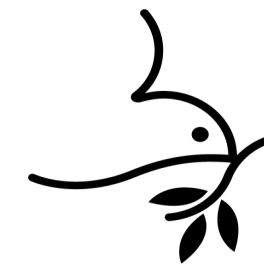
Advent Banner Special thank you to Kay Sommer who created our Advent banner and to Roger Clemmons who made the question mark sculpture.

Pastor Jim Bortell fell and broke his ankle, which required surgery. He has stepped down from his duties through the end of December. Pastor Ron Ropp is taking care of pastoral duties and visitation. Please uplift Jim and Roberta in your prayers.

SMAP. As spring tuition due dates approach, the Student Mutual Aid Program committee would like to remind you that your next pledge payments would be greatly appreciated before the end of the calendar year. We would certainly welcome new pledges as well. Thank you very much for your support of this program!



What are you waiting for? Throughout our Advent Season this question is directed to God, to ourselves, and ultimately to the congregation. We hope this time for you, will be a season of reflection, curiosity, celebration and hope. The question mark symbolizes a time of questioning.



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Dec. 15, 2019

Mennonite Church of Normal

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Ph (309) 452-6622

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Order of Worship

Dec. 15, 2019

What Are You Waiting For?

Focus Statement: We ask, what are you waiting for, O God? God hears our cries and calls to us in return with words of hope. Can we hear God's invitation? God calls us to repent, pay attention, and embrace the Lord's vision for a new creation.

For our guests

- The guestbook and name tags are at the Welcome Table, as well as a small gift for our first-time visitors.
- There is opportunity for introduction of guests during the pre-service time.
- Large print hymnals and hearing devices are available. Ask a greeter or any one of the ushers.

Caring for our children — Professionally-staffed child care is offered beginning at 9:20 am.

- **Toddler Nursery** for newborns through age 2, including a nursing nook, and crib room.
- **Preschool Nursery** for ages 3-5 (Pre-K), in Room 11.
- **Children's Time** during worship. Children are invited to come to the platform.

Following Worship — All Invited

- **Christian Education** for adults begins at 11 a.m. See the classes listed below, all are welcome.
- **Caring and Sharing** coffee time is available in the center rear Fellowship Area, all are welcome.

Mennonite Church of Normal

The Mennonite Church of Normal is a nurturing Anabaptist community that fosters the Christ-centered spiritual growth of all people. As followers of Jesus, we aspire to transform our communities and world into places of peace, healing, and hope.

Through our worship, Christian Education for all ages, fellowship, and service to others in love, the Mennonite Church of Normal lives out Anabaptist values of peace, reconciliation, discipleship, and community. Our belief in Jesus calls us to pray, share our faith, work toward peace and social justice, and create a culture of care and generosity.

All people of any race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, education, or ability who confess faith in Jesus Christ, are welcome to participate in the full life and ministry of the Mennonite Church of Normal. Furthermore, All people of any gender or sexual orientation who confess faith in Jesus Christ, may become members, be married, and are eligible for all volunteer, staff, and pastoral positions at the Mennonite Church of Normal.

Christian Education

Children 10:45 am

Gather 'Round (age 3-1st grade) Room 11
Nursery (newborn — age 3) Room 3

SHINE: Living in God's Light Curriculum

PreK (3 & 4 year olds) Rooms 13 & 14
Kindergarten & Grade 1 Room 11
Grades 2&3 Room 12
Grades 4&5 Room 9

Youth 10:45 am

Grades 6 — 8 Room 8
High School Rooms 5 & 7

Adults 11:00 am

Bible Study—Living In Covenant With God, Darrel Miller & class led, Conference Room (Room 2)
The Bible Unwrapped, led by Randy Zehr in Room 4.

Staff

Ron Ropp, Interim Pastor
rjroppbarn@gmail.com

Laurie Vial, Office Manager
church@normalmennonite.org

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader
satchwell.lauren@gmail.com

Bryan Oyer, Custodian

Wireless Access MCN_Guest/mcnguest

Community Life

Pastor Joe Culpepper

Prelude

Dorothy Loepp

Words of Welcome

Deb Stenger

Call to Worship (on screen)

*Opening Hymns

O Come, O Come, Immanuel
Let all Together Praise our God

Barry Weaver
HWB 172
HWB 213

*Prayer

Children's Time

Darrel Miller

Offering

Christmas Joy

Junior Choir

Lighting the Advent Wreath (on screen)

Alexa Hoffman and Addy Zehr

Special Music

Adore Him
What can I Give to the Holy Child?

Youth Choir

Congregational Prayer

Special Music

Angels Carol

Adult Choir

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10; Matthew 3:1-12

Deb Stenger

Sermon

What are you waiting for? Baaahrrrimstone!

Pastor Joe Culpepper

Silent Reflection

*Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

HWB 195

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please stand as you are able.*
Parents/Caregivers, please note that Children's CE dismisses at 11:45.
Please remember to silence your cell phone.