

Weekly Calendar

Today	Pre-Service Prayer	9 am
	Worship	9:30 am
	C.E. For Adults	11 am
Tues Dec. 31	Staff Meeting	10 am

Pastor Ron Ropp is handling interim pastor duties that require pastoral care as well as visitation to people with health issues. Wayne and Lois Hochstetler and Barry and Marge Weaver are also helping with visitation with those in care facilities or homebound.

Worship Participants: A spreadsheet of Sunday morning volunteer positions for the first two months of 2020 is in all mailboxes. If it does not pertain to you just recycle it. It will also be posted in the church's Google Drive—a link will be published in the Midweek. If you trade a duty with someone please email the office. Thanks.

Of Note

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

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, the Midweek 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.

Camp Friedenswald Winter Church Retreat will be Jan. 24 - 26. Sign-up info was placed in mailboxes!

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

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!

Attendance last Sunday was not recorded.

Stewardship News

Today's focus: **Big Picture** items

Spending plans: **2019, 2020 prop**

Totals \$495,166 \$451,998

Local prog 8.5% 8.8%

Staff & Adm 48.4% 43.2%

Facilities 17.0% 19.1%

Sent out 26.1% 28.9%

Year to date: Through November:

Income: \$417,765.53

Expenses: \$409,732.85

Through November we have a positive balance of \$8,032! So far in December the income has been very good. Unless something very unusual happens, we will end the year with a positive balance! Have we met our goals for 2019?

Working together we can accomplish our goals for 2020 as well! **What aspect of giving do you find most meaningful?** Thank you for your gifts to the ministry at MCN!



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. 29, 2019

Mennonite Church of Normal

805 S Cottage Ave — Normal IL 61761

Ph (309) 452-6622

church@normalmennonite.org

www.normalmennonite.org

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

Order of Worship Dec. 29, 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.

Community Life Pastor Ron Ropp

Prelude Elsa Raab

Words of Welcome Deb Stenger

Call to Worship (on screen)

*Opening Hymns Wayne Hochstetler
O Little Town of Bethlehem HWB 191
Hark the Herald Angels Sing HWB 201

*Prayer

Children's Time Darrel Miller

Offering

Lighting the Advent Wreath (on screen) Lily Driscoll & Nevaeh Nester

Congregational Prayer

*Hymn *O, Beautiful Star of Bethlehem* STS 32

Scripture Matthew 2:13-23 Deb Stenger

Sermon The Season of Healing and Hope Pastor Ron Ropp

Silent Reflection

*Hymns It Came Upon a Midnight Clear HWB 195
Joy to the World HWM 318

*Benediction

May we turn from the despair that narrates our own lives and the world in which we live. May we remember who God is and the promise of faithfulness that God has made to creation.

*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.*