

Weekly Calendar

Today	Pre-Service Prayer	9 am
	Worship	9:30 am
	C.E. for Children	10:45 am
	C.E. For Adults	11 am
Wed Jan. 8	Wellness Committee	5:30 pm
Thur Jan. 9	Next Man Bible Study	6:15 am
	Outreach	5 pm
	Pastoral Council	6 pm

Pastor Ron Ropp is handling visitation to people with health issues. 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 was also posted in the church's Google Drive—a link was published in the Midweek. If you trade a duty with someone please email the office. It is also posted on the bulletin board.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Mennonite Church of Normal will be Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020. There will be a potluck after Sunday School followed by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Report is posted on the Drive. See Midweek for the hotlink.

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

Of Note

I am looking forward to worshipping with you today as we begin the transition journey. Thanks to all who have already signed up for a household visit—it's a crucial part of the transition work. If you have not yet signed up, make it a New Year's resolution to do so, and with minimal effort, you can feel good about keeping at least one of your resolutions! -Gary Martin

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

Attendance last Sunday was 130.

Stewardship News

Today we begin a new year, a new decade, a new budget cycle with new opportunities, new challenges, and new uncertainties. As a community, working together, we can support each other as we face these new opportunities and challenges. Although there are always uncertainties in any spending plan, given the transition year ahead there are additional uncertainties that may arise. The proposed spending plan, up for approval on Jan 19, has contingencies built in that hopefully will meet the uncertainties as they arise. As a Financial Stewardship Committee, we will try to keep the congregation apprised, with notes like this in the bulletin, of what is happening and the status of our financial situation.

Looking back over 2019, although the income did not reach the Spending Plan level, neither did the expenses. (Specific numbers in next week's bulletin.) That was due in part to planning that anticipated uncertainties. Although we will end the year with more income than expenses, that was uncertain when we were \$50,000 behind in August. How did it happen that we ended ahead? It certainly was the faithful, generous giving of many members of our community some of whom dug a bit deeper and offered additional gifts. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I would also note those persons over 70.5 years old with traditional IRAs. They are Required to take a Minimum Distribution from those accounts (RMD). These RMDs can be given directly to a church or other charitable organization. MCN received over \$50,000 in such contributions in the last three months of 2019! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, to all who have generously supported the work of 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

Jan. 5, 2020

Mennonite Church of Normal

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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).

Staff

Gary Martin, Transitional Minister
gmartin5@comcast.net
574-238-5475 (cell)

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation
rjroppbarn@gmail.com

Laurie Vial, Office Manager
church@normalmennonite.org

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader
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Bryan Oyer, Custodian

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Order of Worship Jan. 5, 2020 What Are You Waiting For?

...so that through the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 3:10)

Community Life Pastor Gary Martin

Prelude Chris Culbertson

Words of Welcome Deb Stenger

Call to Worship (on screen)

*Opening Hymns Cindy Ropp
As With Gladness Men of Old HWB 218
The First Noel, the Angel Did Say HWB 199

*Prayer

Children's Time Darrel Miller

Offering

Affirmation of Faith (on screen) Deb Stenger

Congregational Prayer

*Hymn *Hope is a Candle* STS 15

Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12 Deb Stenger

Sermon *Through the church* Pastor Gary Martin

Silent Reflection

*Hymn *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* STJ 95

*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.*