



Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world

Midweek Connection at MCN

Jan. 8, 2020

Worship with us this Sunday, Jan. 12

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon: A New Season by Pastor Doug Luginbill



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.

[Please use this link to view it.](#)

**From our Transition Pastor, Gary Martin
The Transitional Period Begins at Home!**

[To Sign Up use this link.](#) If you don't have access to the internet helpers will be at a table this coming Sunday.

WHAT? Gary Martin, our transitional pastor, would like to visit EVERY household, ideally at your residence, but if you prefer, at the church or another location. The visits will take place Jan 5-13; 19-22; Feb. 2-9; 15-23.

WHY? These informal visits are the important first step in the transition process, enabling Gary to understand the congregation by first hearing each individual voice. It also helps him

get acquainted and learn names. A composite report of the “congregation’s voice” will be presented to the congregation early in March, along with recommendations for specific transition events through May, and a rough projection for transition priorities for the rest of the year.

Those in warmer climates during winter have the option of scheduling a phone visit.

To stay focused, please “do not feed the pastor.” (Be assured, Gary enjoys meals in homes, but that can happen later) Visits will be about 90 minutes. Two individuals can schedule a visit together, if that feels more comfortable. Please schedule during weekdays, if you are available then, so evenings and weekends are open for those who work weekdays. When possible, Gary would like to meet when children are home, so he can hear their voices too. They are free to leave after a few minutes. And it’s fine to schedule when children are away, if that’s your preference.

Gary wants to hear whatever you want to share about yourself or the congregation, or any questions about the transition period.

The questions:

1. What brought you to MCN?
2. What keeps you at MCN?
3. Are you aware of your spiritual gift? (1 Cor. 12:1-11; Rom. 12:1-8; Eph. 4:1-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)
4. When this transition time ends, it will have been worthwhile if MCN _____.
5. After prayerful discernment, I believe the Holy Spirit’s most important desire for MCN is _____.
6. Are there “weighty voices” at MCN? When _____ speaks, everyone listens.

Office and Transition Staff Hours and Contact Info

Church Office Hours: Weekdays (except Wednesdays) 9 am - Noon
Building hours 9-4 daily except Wednesday

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor gmartin5@comcast.net cell 574.238.5475.

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation; rjroppbarn@gmail.com or 309.212.2456. Ron is available for visits related to health issues. Barry and Marge Weaver are assisting with visitation including visits with those in care facilities or homebound.

Laurie Vial, Office Manager; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622.

Bryan Oyer, custodian

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com or 309.830.6827.



This Week at MCN

Wednesday, Jan. 8

5:30 pm Wellness Committee

6 pm Pastoral Council

Thursday, Jan. 9

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study
Friday, Jan. 10
4 pm Worship Committee
Sunday, Jan 12
9 am Pre-service Prayer
9:30 am Worship
10:45 am Christian Ed for Children
11 am Christian Ed for Adults
2:30 pm Mennonite Relief Sale Board
Monday, Jan. 13
9:30 am Mennonite Women
4:30 pm Financial Stewardship Committee
Tuesday, Jan. 14
5 pm Peace & Justice Committee
5:30 pm Church Board



From Jan. 5, 2020

--Ruth Slagell has been in and out of the hospital the last two weeks and will be transferred to a care facility for therapy. Please keep Ruth and her family in your prayers.

--Phil Dick asked for prayers for the situation in the Middle East and the threat of war.

--Lynette Miller shared a joy. Their daughter visited her SST family in Peru and learned that from an offhand comment she made 10 years ago, a project where they gave out Christmas gifts started and has grown to a church with about 40 people attending.

Visits to Our Members in Care Facilities

Please remember in your prayers, or with cards or a visit, the following members in care facilities:

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

Joyce Schmucker - Luther Oaks Assisted Living

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.



Milepost

“Milepost” is a new weekly item in Midweek Connection. It invites congregants to reflect on the transitional process. Think of it as a scenic lookout where we pull off the highway, to look back on where we have just been, and contemplate what’s ahead. The number is the accumulated days into the journey.

-Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor

Transitions

Milepost 8

Life is about transitions: from womb to world; child to adolescent to adult; school to employment to retirement; one job or residence to another. Transitions go better when we take time to reflect. All transitions involve change: they begin with an ending, and end with a new beginning.

Holy week was the greatest transition in human history. It began with the ending of Jesus’ earthly ministry at the cross. His resurrection marked a new beginning, making abundant life available to humankind. Jesus’ incarnation was a transition: he gave up everything (Phil. 2:1-11), to dwell among us.

A few “in” words for the interim:

Integrity: speak up, speak for yourself, walk your talk.

Inspiration: the Holy Spirit is working among us--transition will be holy space and time; watch for opportunities for spiritual growth.

Integration: step back and see the big picture; encourage all parts of the system to work together toward transitional period objectives; it’s about the Kingdom of God, not our personal preferences.

Inclusive: unity of purpose increases when we truly get to know and listen intently to all voices and perspectives

Intentional: strategically focus on transitional period objectives; prepare by reading worship texts in advance, mileposts, process prep materials, and listening to missed services and events.

Investment: with a monthly household budget, it takes discipline to save, because all dollars can easily be spent on the urgent.

Transition is about diverting some energy away from the routine (and urgent!), to a place where the Spirit will multiply it into much greater Kingdom dividends in years to come.

Visitation phase update: 11 visits completed; 27 more scheduled. I hope more than 40 additional households sign up soon! Congregant investment of time in this phase, increases the effectiveness of the entire transitional effort. I invite all to support our transitional efforts with prayer.

My schedule in Normal: through Jan. 13; Jan. 19-22; Feb. 2-9, 16-23. But I also work from home, so please e-mail, text or call anytime: 574-238-5475; gmartin5@comcast.net.

Next milepost: transitional period objectives.

thank
you!

Christmas Caroling

Thank you for the Christmas caroling! Also, the cookies and the little girl who was in charge of the cookies!

Jack and Phyllis Lutz #122

Missing

MCN is missing two eight-foot polymer tables and a dolly. Please bring them back. Bryan

LGBTQIA+ Safe Space & Ally Group

We will have our January meeting in the Church Library right after the service on the 12th. New members are always welcome. If you want more info, contact Andy Hedberg.



Potluck Lunch

Jan. 19. Please bring one (or more!) of your delicious dishes to share and table service for your household. Beverages provided.



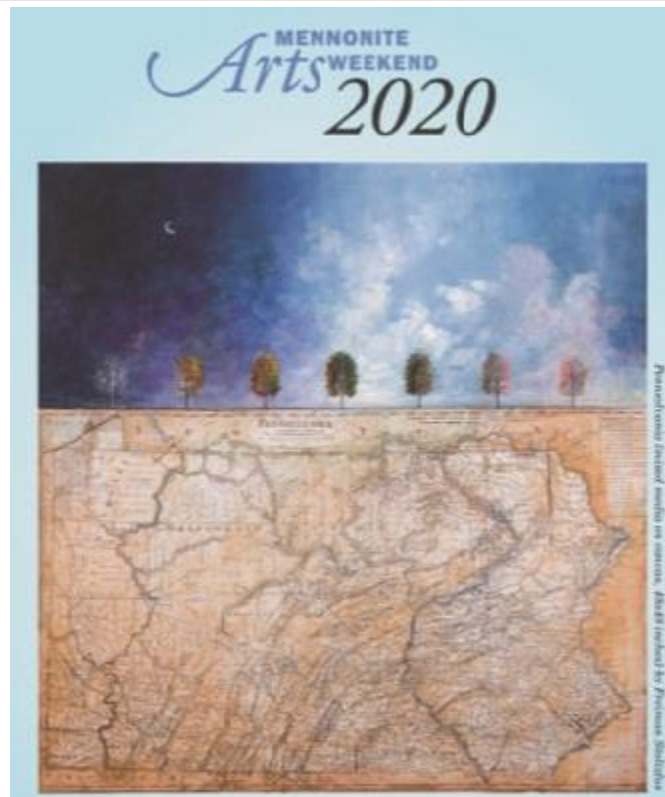
Wedding Invitation

Leah Roeschley and Jacob Walker will be getting married during a portion of the worship service at Hopedale Mennonite Church on Sunday, Feb. 16. ALL are invited to come to Hopedale Mennonite Church that day for worship and to witness this special event. The service begins at 9:30 a.m.. There will be a cupcake and coffee reception following the worship service. The church is located at 5192 Hopedale Rd., Hopedale, IL.



Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped to make our Advent worship a special time for all of us. Our choirs and all of our musicians gave us beautiful music. Thank you for whatever part you played in our services, we needed each one of you.
The Worship Committee.



Mennonite Arts Weekend

Interested in attending the Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati Feb.7-9? It is an opportunity to see/hear the faith-based presentations/products of excellent Mennonite artists. Lynn Reha is the local representative for this weekend. She is attending and can provide three others with transportation. For more information and to register, please go to www.mennoniteartsweekend.org. Please contact Lynn if you are interested in going.

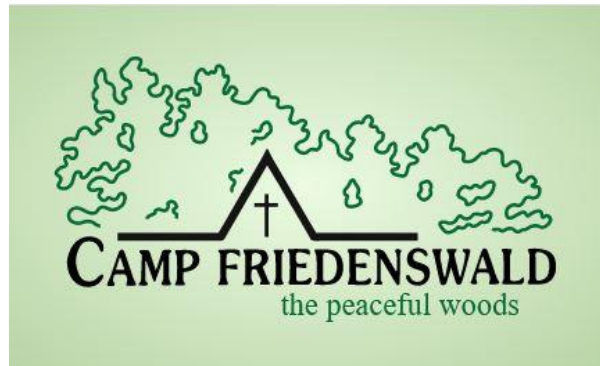
Mennonite Relief Sale

The 2020 Relief Sale is only three months away! You are invited to start thinking about the various ways you support and contribute to the sale. If you are planning to contribute an item to the auction, now is a good time to start working on your project or potentially purchase an item that is on sale for Christmas. Any questions can be directed to Ben Roeschley and Louise Reeser (Board Members) or Gerry Schrock and Marcia Rossi (Sale

Promoters).

Worship Participants

A spreadsheet of Sunday morning volunteer positions for the first two months of 2020 was put in all mailboxes on Dec. 29. If it does not pertain to you just recycle it. On the back are tips for ushers and nursery helpers. If you trade a duty with someone please email the office. Thank you to Elsa Raab, Julie Musselman, Spring Neely, Caleb Augspurger and Jenell Ulrich who create these lists and to Beth Reeser and Louise Reeser who helped in the past. Laurie now keeps the master spreadsheet and works on distribution and publicity. Thank you to all who help with these important Sunday morning tasks. The list is on the bulletin board. To see the list online [use this link](#). The bulletin board list and the list online will be updated frequently and will soon include more months.



Camp Friedenswald Winter Church Retreat will be Jan. 24 - 26.
Please [visit this link](#) for more details and to sign up.

Creation Care Confab

Periodic info and musings to help open conversations about God's amazing Creation
Climate and Community Retreat at Friedenswald: <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/> -
April 17-19, 2020

Presenters: Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube and Pastor Michael Crosby; Music with Wendy Chappell-Dick and Amy Stauffer-McNutt

Are you passionate about working on the climate crisis and feeling the need for heart-felt, open, and honest conversation about this critical topic? Come be part of this special gathering to replenish your energy, connect with like-minded folks, deepen your knowledge, and vision for next steps in your community. Who should attend? Formal and informal green teams for churches, pastors, interested individuals, youth groups, and families are all welcome!

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.



Birthdays

Frank Jablonski Jan. 8
Seth Stalter Jan. 9
Albert Tshiseleka Jan. 9
Dick Baum Jan. 11
Ken Shoemaker Jan. 11
Anna Rosa Tshiseleka Jan. 12
Christian Engel Jan. 14



Please Wear Your Nametag

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

Mennonite Relief Sale Association

62nd Annual Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

“Celebrating MCC’s Century of Global Ministry in the Name of Christ”

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Board says thank you for all of your assistance in past sales. Our 62nd Illinois Sale will be March 20-21, 2020. The Annual Distress Supper/organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church of Morton.

Now is a great time to consider a contribution to our 62nd Sale. Donations are welcome year around and may be for Relief Sale general needs or for covering expenses of specific areas such as the auction, baby booth, chicken/fish foods, donuts, Dutch Market, Kiddie Korner, meat, pancake mix, and many other areas. Donations for “My Coins Count” are appreciated too. Checks may be sent to Treasurer Ben Roeschley, 1926 East Taylor Street, Bloomington, IL 61701.

Again this year many volunteers will be needed. Also your prayers on behalf of the 62nd

Illinois Relief Sale, MCC, and the recipients of the funds are very appreciated.



Partners in Healing 2020

MCN has been asked to pray for the **Progressive Care Unit**. PCU is located on the second floor of the patient bed tower and provides care for neurosurgical and other high-acuity patients at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center.



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

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9-Noon

Building is open 9-4 on those same days.

Deadline for Midweek and bulletin items is noon on Wednesday.

Voice of the Day

In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we

are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations.

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn



Building Use

Wednesday, Jan. 8

5 pm Overeaters Anonymous

Saturday, Jan. 11

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Jan. 13

5:30 pm Al-Anon

5:30 pm Wild Ones Board

7 pm Wild Ones

Tuesday, Jan. 14

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

A man was driving down the highway late one night when his minivan broke down. He turned on his flashers and tried to get someone's attention to help him. Eventually a Lamborghini Countach pulls up.

"Any chance I could get a lift into town?" said the minivan driver.

"I can do better than that," the man driving the Countach replied. "I've got a V-12 under this hood, I can tow you to the nearest town, no problem. Just honk your horn and flash your lights if I start going too fast."

They head off down the road and eventually come to a stop light and up pulls a Ferrari F40 with a V-10. The F40 began to rev its engine to get the Countach to race. The Countach revs its engine and the light turns green. They fly out of there, and about a half a mile down the road they pass a speed trap.

The officer there watches them pass and radios to base saying, "Base, you will not believe what I just saw. A F40 and a Countach were driving down the road doing about 120 with a minivan honking its horn and flashing its lights trying to pass them!"



Serving this week

South Greeters: Chellie & Eric Miller

West Greeter: Marianne Israel

Welcome Table: Mary Ann King

Ushers: Eric & Chellie Miller, Kristen Satchwell, Ardys Serpette

Sermon: Doug Luginbill
Worship Leader: Gail Fisher
Song Leader: Glenn Wilson
Accompanist: Dorothy Loepp
Scripture Reader: Caleb Augspurger
Children's Time: Chris Culbertson
Children's Song Leader: Randy & Holly Zehr
Technology: Adam Augspurger
Toddler Nursery: Holly Zehr
Preschool Nursery: Jordan King