

Midweek Connection for Feb. 12,
2020

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Midweek Connection at MCN
12, 2020

Feb.

100 Gifts for 100 Years cancelled for tonight!

Worship with us this Sunday, Feb. 12

Scripture: Ruth 3:1-18

Sermon: *Doing the right thing* by Pastor Gary Martin

Our Ruth series, God provides, we decide, continues by considering the Boaz character. By mentioning Boaz' mother, Rahab (an outsider!), the writer begs us to connect the dots between his story and his parents' story. Three qualities in Boaz enabled him to do the right thing: humility, valuing community, and a willingness to be accountable.



Church Directory Announcement

It's that time of year - time to publish a new church directory of names, addresses, emails, phone numbers and birthdays. If you have corrections from last year please email Laurie at church@normalmennonite.org. Once it is updated we will print a copy for you to proofread - it will be available on a table for several Sundays. You will also be able to look at the file online. We are going to print the directory this year directly from our church database software **for the first time**. Even if your listing was correct last year and you have no changes we need you to proofread your listing. Once these edits are corrected we will be print and publish the 2020 Directory. Thanks for your help in making it up-to-date and accurate.

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 call the office to sign up.

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 Feb. 16-18.

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

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

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. In the parish Feb. 16-18; 23-26; March 8-12; 15-18; 29-30; April 5-12.

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation has resumed his duties. Barry and Marge Weaver and Wayne and Lois Hochstetler 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

Thursday, Feb. 13

6:15 am Next Man Bible Study

Sunday, Feb. 16

9 am Pre-service Prayer

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Christian Ed for Children

11 am Christian Ed for Adults

6 pm Junior Choir

6:45 pm Youth Choir

Tuesday, Feb. 18

6:30 pm Youth Ministry Committee



From Feb. 9, 2020

--The Illinois Mennonite Conference meeting is this coming Saturday. Please pray for the delegates and the decisions they will be making.

--Please pray for Andreas Unzicker who has a broken ankle.

--Please pray for Joe Haney who is experiencing severe back pain.

--A joy was Marge Nester's celebration with lots of family in attendance and it was also Shelly's birthday.

--Please pray for Ron Ropp who experienced a cardiac episode in church Sunday. He

is back home and has resumed his regular schedule.

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 43

Parable of the Mailboxes

“... God has put all parts of our body together in the way that he decided is best.” 1 Cor. 12:18.

The Apostle Paul uses the human body as a metaphor: The Holy Spirit assembles the congregation!

Most congregations do well with welcoming newcomers: “We are so glad to have you here!” The subtle, unspoken message that follows separates congregations into two categories.

- Not-yet-missional congregations communicate: “We can’t wait for you to learn the ropes so you can help us do what we are doing.”
- Missional congregations communicate: “We can’t wait to see how your gift will change and enrich us.”

The first message implies a static congregation: new folk are expected to change. The second message

implies a dynamic congregation: everyone changes a little with each new person.

Consider church mailboxes: most churches overhaul the mailbox system once a year. Between overhauls, you “make do” with changes. When someone leaves, an empty box is not a problem. But what do you do with new folk? The empty boxes are rarely in the right place because the Holy Spirit does not pay attention to the alphabet. You either put the new name close to the correct location, or move many boxes so the newcomer is in the correct location.

It's not about mailboxes! It's about how we view the new folk among us. Do we tend to think: "They should learn the ropes so they can help with what we are doing" or each new person will help us keep changing because they bring new gifts the Holy Spirit knows are needed here?" The message, "We will all move a little, so you can fit into this congregation exactly where you belong," is very attractive to newcomers.

In Sunday's episode of "Gleaning Right," we examine why Boaz was able to do the right thing. Reflection questions:

1. Is my life or MCN life characterized by humility?
2. How important is the wellbeing of the Bloomington/Normal area to MCN (Jeremiah 29:4-7)?
3. Is my life or MCN life characterized by accountability? -Gary Martin

Transition Updates:

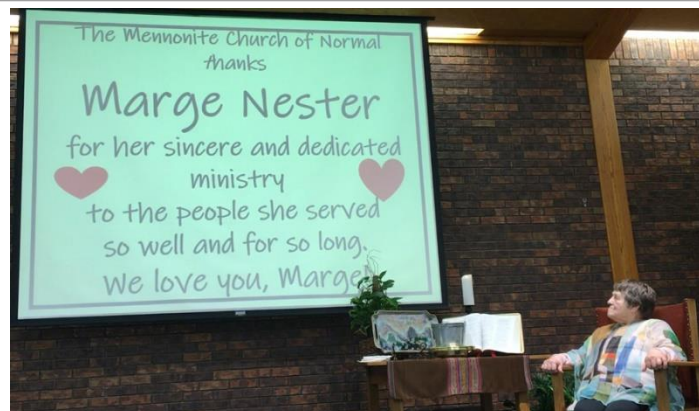
1. Household visits end Feb. 18. Sign up today!
2. Please mark your calendars:

Sunday, March 8. 10:45 a.m. Household visit report and recommendations for 2020

Sunday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. First Congregational Process: "Remembering MCN"

The Bethel College Choir

Bethel College Choir will perform a concert at MCN at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 23. Please plan to attend. We will need to provide an evening meal before the concert, refreshments after the concert and housing for the choir members on that Monday night. Please contact Phil Dick if you are willing to help with this.

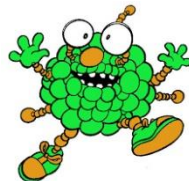




Marge Nester was honored Sunday as she steps down from her parish nurse position after many years of loving service.

Encountering Mental Health Challenges

A class, sponsored by the Wellness Committee to provide basic mental health knowledge and training for responding to individuals in distress, will begin March 01, 2020. Individuals are invited to tell their mental health stories. It could be a personal journey or the effect of a family member's or friend's mental health challenge on you. Confidentiality will be stressed. If you are willing to share in the class in this way, please contact Lois Hochstetler, Kristen Satchwell or Bess Desch personally or with an email or note in one of their mailboxes. Questions or concerns can be addressed to any of them. An additional goal for the class is to aid in removing the stigma of seeking help for those with a mental help challenge. You could be instrumental in this effort. Please respond soon.



Cold and Flu Season

It's cold and flu season at MCN. Consider a fist bump instead of a handshake. Let's all wash our hands frequently and make use of the hand sanitizer at the Welcome Desk and other locations. Thanks!



New Compostable Tableware for Relief Sale

If you are interested in supporting this effort to turn the tableware for the dinner and breakfast meals into compost, not landfill waste, please donate to the Compostable Tableware Project. Your donation will save the plates, cutlery, and cups from going into the landfill. Compostable tableware is about 25% more expensive than Styrofoam, so to maintain our funding to MCC projects, we are seeking donations to defray the additional costs. If you wish to contribute, please write a separate check from other contributions. Make it out to Mennonite Church of Normal with Compostable Tableware in the memo line.

Cancelled for Feb. 12 - hope to start next week - you are welcome to work on projects at home.

100 Gifts for 100 Years

This year MCC will be celebrating one hundred years of service. We begin preparations for the 62nd year of relief Sales. Mennonite Church of Normal is always active in the preparations of the Sale. As we begin preparations Mennonite Women would like to encourage all to come and help make some things for the Relief Sale. The following six weeks will be designated as work evenings every Wednesday to make 100 gifts to sell at the Sale. ALL are invited to come and share their gift. Together we can make 100 nonfood items.

Bring whatever you can to work on or to share. If you aren't sure what to bring come and help someone or learn something new. We want to work as teams or as families. What kinds of things might we do? Some suggestions are: knot a comforter; put binding on a comforter, sew a project on the sewing machine, (sewing machine will be there), crochet a scarf or potholder or dishcloth; make a wreath; make some cards, knit an item like a scarf, sweater or scrunchie or afghan; plant some flowers/seedlings); make some flower arrangements; put together items for silent auction baskets; all kinds of art; painting; crafts; small woodworking items are just some possibilities.

The two weeks before the Sale will be used for some food items.

This is an opportunity for ALL to be involved on the next six Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30. Come everyone and bring your project or hands to share and help someone. Let's have fun as we prepare for the Illinois sale. Questions: Ask Gerry, Marcia or Roelie

Coming this Sunday...

...on the MCN channel, each Sunday in February, at 9:30 a.m.: *Gleaning Right*, a mini-series on the book of Ruth, with guest appearances by Orpah, Naomi, Obed,

Boaz, and Ruth, the star of *Gleaning Right*. Invite family and friends!

IMC Annual Business Meeting

IMC will hold its annual business meeting **Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020** at Camp Menno Haven. One agenda item will be reviewing IMC leadership's current **practices regarding credentialing** related to same sex marriage. The stated practices from 2017, as well as a proposal from MLT, is posted on the website at www.illinoismennonite.com. Our congregation is allowed to have five delegates plus a pastor in attendance. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cindy Ropp at cropp@ilstu.edu or 309/826-9183 as soon as possible.

Missing

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



Rainbow Confab

Periodic info and musings to help open conversations about God's amazing rainbows

As seen in recent news:

Belated apology for high-profile alumna: [link](#)

The president of Goshen College offered "profound apologies": [link](#)



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.

Mennonite Relief Sale

The 2020 Relief Sale is around the corner! 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).

Creation Care Confab

Periodic info and musings to help open conversations about God's amazing Creation

Baseline survey highlights divergence, convergence in Mennonites beliefs on sustainability & climate change: [link](#)



Anniversaries

Ginette Molino and Tshitshi Tshiseleka Feb. 14

Birthdays

Leroy Loepp Feb. 13

Rick Satchwell Feb. 14

Bennie Brown Feb. 18

Emari Stalter Feb. 18

Shannon Unzicker Feb. 18



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.



ILLINOIS
NETWORK HUB



Come join the MEDA Illinois network hub as it visits a local upstart business: The Proving Ground Bouldering Gym. Our evening will give attendees the opportunity to network and explore one of Bloomington/Normal's newest small businesses and will feature a conversation with Barry and Marge Weaver, co-owners. The Weavers will share about the satisfying and challenging experiences of starting a small business.

DETAILS

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

TIME: 7 PM - 8:30 PM

PLACE: THE PROVING GROUND BOULDERING GYM | 1503 E COLLEGE AVE, NORMAL, IL 061761

COST: \$0 *(If you plan to enjoy the climbing experience after the presentation, the cost is covered, but please fill out a waiver at tpgbouldering.com ahead of time if this is your first time climbing at TPG. The gym is open until 10:00pm)*

Light refreshments will be served.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS: Dr. Barry Weaver practiced pediatrics for nearly 30 years in Bloomington, IL. Recently retired from medicine, Barry and his wife, Marge, have jumped into the world of owning and helping operate a small business: The Proving Ground Bouldering Gym in Normal. Barry's longtime passion for climbing and interest in running a small business have intersected at The Proving Ground, which keeps Barry and Marge busy in post-retirement.

RSVP BY FEBRUARY 25

All are welcome. Please RSVP by calling/texting Eric at (309) 831-6585.

Voice of the Day

Hope will never be silent. - Harvey Milk



Building Use

Saturday, Feb. 15

10 am Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, Feb. 17

5:30 pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, Feb. 18

7 pm Cantus Novus

Today's Chuckle

Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, only one carrion allowed per passenger."



Serving this week

South Greeters: Caleb & Adam Augspurger
West Greeter: Bernice Valverde
Welcome Table: Dorothy Loepf
Ushers: Cory & Matt Culbertson & Jeff and Adam Reiman
Sermon: Gary Martin
Worship Leader: Darrel Miller
Song Leader: Cindy Ropp
Accompanist: Chris Culbertson
Scripture Reader: Rita Munkakusi
Children's Time: Melika Hershberger
Children's Song Leader: Shelly King
Technology: Randy Zehr
Toddler Nursery: David & Gabriella Harnish
Preschool Nursery: Adam Reiman

Please Wear Your Nametag

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

Worship Participants

A spreadsheet of Sunday morning volunteer positions for 2020 is posted on the bulletin board. On the back are tips for ushers and nursery helpers. If you trade a duty with someone please email the office. Laurie keeps the master spreadsheet and works on distribution and publicity. Thank you to all who help with these important Sunday morning tasks. To see the list online [use this link](#). The list is updated frequently and will soon include more months.

Parking

If you are able-bodied, please do not park on the south side of the church during Sunday worship and other well-attended events. This leaves spaces for people who do not have a handicap permit but would benefit from parking near the door. Thank you.

Fourth Sundays

On the fourth Sunday of each month, one or two members of the Church Board will be available after worship if anyone wants to discuss an issue - a joy or a concern. These opportunities will most likely take place in the middle office. The Board wants to dialogue with you.

Candle Policy

Please remember that "real" candles are not allowed at MCN except during regular and special worship services. If you would like to use a candle or candles during Sunday School, Spiritual Direction or other events please use a battery-powered candle. During a recent fire inspection we were marked down for matches and candles in several Sunday School rooms. Please follow this policy to create a safer environment in our building.

Minutes

The minutes of all committees and the Church Board are available for reading in the white binder in the church library.

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.