

Midweek Connection for March 4,  
2020

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Midweek Connection at MCN

March 4, 2020



**Worship with us this Sunday, March 8**

**Scripture: John 3:1-17; Genesis 12:1-4a**

**Sermon: *Enlightening Nick at Night* by Gary Martin**

**Second Sunday in Lent** God, show us your faithful, loving presence! Nicodemus was a devout Jew, but his darkness prevented him from recognizing God's presence in Jesus, standing in front of him. What darkness in my life, hinders experiencing God's faithful, loving presence? Abraham and Sarah experienced God's faithful, loving presence. What was different in their story?

**Note:** There will be no "open mic" during Lent. Please write announcements for Community Life and/or joys and concerns for Sharing on the paper provided and hand it to Pastor Gary.



### **Church Directory is Ready to Proofread!!!**

The 2020 Church Directory is printed and in the back of the sanctuary on a table. I printed the directory directly from our church database software for the first time. Birthdays and anniversaries will be listed in the back. Even if your listing was correct last year and you have no changes, I need you to proofread your listing. There are instructions on the table.

You can also look at the file online using [this link](#) beginning Friday evening. There are instructions on how to communicate changes and/or let me know it is o.k. as is.

A few of you could be missing entirely - we need to correct that!

If you do NOT proofread your listing a volunteer will call or email you. Please proofread your listing to minimize the time this step takes.

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. Laurie

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### **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](mailto:gmartin5@comcast.net) cell 574.238.5475. In the parish March 8-13; 15-19; 28-31; April 5-14; 19-22

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation is providing pastoral care for those who are ill or hospitalized. 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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309.452.6622.

Bryan Oyer, custodian

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader; [satchwell.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com) or 309.830.6827.



## This Week at MCN

### Wednesday, March 4

6:30 p.m. 100 Gifts for 100 Years

### Thursday, March 5

6:15 a.m. Next Man Bible Study

### Sunday, March 8

9 a.m. Pre-service Prayer

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:45 a.m. Christian Ed for Children

10:45 a.m. Transition Visit Report and Recommendations

5 p.m. JMYF & MYF

6 p.m. Junior Choir

6:45 p.m. Youth Choir

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir

### Monday, March 9

9:30 a.m. Mennonite Women

4:30 p.m. Staff Meeting

### Tuesday, March 10

4 p.m. Financial Stewardship Committee

5 p.m. Peace & Justice Committee

5:30 p.m. Church Board



From March 1

--Lynette Miller reported that their daughter Elizabeth has a final diagnosis and treatment plan. She has a type of lymphoma and it is only in her arm and will be treated by targeted radiation. Lynette also learned their son, Lane, came home from Korea last week while it was still possible. She thanked everyone for their prayers.

--Laura Dick asked for prayers for a former co-worker, John Price a few weeks ago. Laura shared that he died and she went to his visitation where everyone remarked that he lived fully in the service of others.

--Ron Ropp shared that Evelyn Bertsche is in the hospital and asked for prayers for John and Evelyn. Evelyn is now home.

--Lynn Reha thanked the congregation for their calls, visits, food and other expressions of care following her surgery.

--Larry Reeser shared a joy that the attorney who has guided MCN and the MRC over the years has now purchased a unit at the MRC.

--Helen Dick Brandon asked for prayers for the family of the father who was killed in a car accident during the recent storm. He leaves a wife and three young children who attend District 87 schools. There is a gofundme account set up to pay for his funeral.

--Devon Tracy asked for prayers for professionals in the labor and delivery field who are trying to

bring justice to the issue that black women in Illinois are six times more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts.

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### 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.

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### Milepost 64

### Connecting the dots

Lent is a time for personal reflection and renewal. At this rest stop, let's consider an implication for the faith community.

The Lenten Gospel readings leave us with contextual and theological whiplash. On Transfiguration Sunday (had we not been concluding the Ruth series), we would have encountered a glorified Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah—the ultimate mountaintop experience. Next, Jesus debated the devil in the wilderness, and then a devout religious leader in urban darkness. Then on to a risqué encounter with a woman at noon in a foreign land, another theological debate back in the city about healing a blind man, creating an unbelievable scene at a village funeral, and finally a dramatic political parade. What kind of example is Jesus providing?

Following Jesus will take us to all kinds of places, where we will encounter all kinds of people and issues. As individual disciples, we are formed by reflecting on each story. None of us can “be Jesus” today in this variety of contexts. But we can collectively, as the Body of Christ!

One take away from visiting 67 MCN households: the Holy Spirit has gathered a faith community with remarkable spiritual gifts, vocational expertise, and life experiences. MCN's potential is limited only by the quality and integration of our relationships with the God, each other, and neighbor. Most of our transition efforts will therefore focus on deepening and integrating these relationships. It will require doing most everything together, as a congregation. It will be a challenging “not business as usual” year!

Three transitional process priorities in March:

-**Sunday, March 8**, 10:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting: Visit Project Report and Recommendations

-**Sunday, March 29**, 9:30 a.m. - 2:15 pm. “Re-membering MCN” Watch for details next week.

Meal provided.

-**March 11-April 9** (continuing throughout 2020): “Will you let me be your servant?” -an opportunity to

serve a MCNer, and be served by another MCNer. Watch for details next week.

-Gary

Martin

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### Non-commercial dishwasher

Anyone is welcome to use the residential-type Whirlpool dishwasher. Generally it is filled all week and run late Friday afternoon even if rather empty. If you use it over the weekend please empty, then fill and run (if full). I empty it on Monday morning. Let's keep more stuff out of the landfill!!!! Laurie

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### New: Worship Participants!

A spreadsheet of Sunday morning volunteer positions for 2020 is posted on the bulletin board. Tips for ushers and nursery helpers are included. 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 was **updated Feb. 18** to include a few more months.

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### The Bethel College Choir

On Monday, March 23rd, we have the opportunity to host the Bethel College concert choir. We will have a sign-up for hosting the students. A host simply needs to provide a place to stay on Monday evening following the 7 p.m. concert, breakfast the next morning, and a sack lunch for the bus ride the next day; we will need to find housing for 50 people. We will also have a sign-up for desserts and salads for the choir's Monday evening supper. Please sign up at the back of the church or on [Sign Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAFA92FABF49-bethel) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAFA92FABF49-bethel>). Thank you in advance for opening your home and hospitality to the students and their conductor. If you have questions, please contact Phil Dick at (309) 824-2551 or Helen Dick Brandon (309) 826-4359.

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### Hesston College Bel Canto Singers

**Update: housing still needed for five students.** We have the privilege of being included in the tour schedule of the Bel Canto Singers from Hesston (KS) College on Sunday morning, March 22. We are asked to provide Saturday night lodging/hosting (arriving at 9 p.m.) and Sunday breakfast in your home for these 20 folks. After participating in our worship service, they will join us for the annual post-Relief Sale lunch provided before they leave for KS. This is a wonderful chance to connect with students and faculty! Please use the Signup Genius or contact Marge Weaver (309-530-8713, [margemartinweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margemartinweaver@gmail.com)) to make your reservation to host. Thanks so much for sharing your homes! [Sign Up Genius Link](#)

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## 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. **Update from Lynn:** "The response to the request for funding for compostables has been excellent and I will update everyone as soon as I know any need for further donations."

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## 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: knit 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

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## Rainbow Confab

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

Myth & Fact

Myth: It's a "lifestyle"

Fact: It's sometimes said that lgbtq people live a "gay lifestyle."

The problem with that word is that it can trivialize lgbtq people and the struggles they face. Being lgbtq is no more a lifestyle than being straight or cisgender — it's a life, just like anyone else's.

source: Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests

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## 62nd Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale

62nd Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale, March 20-21 at the Interstate Center in Bloomington. The 2020 theme is "Celebrating MCC's Century of Global Ministry in the Name of Christ." Volunteers are still needed in several areas. See where you can help.

\*SET UP tables and booths: Thursday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

\*DUTCH MARKET: needs some people for stocking on Friday 12-2 p.m., 2-4 p.m. and for checkout lanes, 6:30-9 p.m. We need more pies (especially cherry pies), cookies, bread, tea rings and gluten-free baked items.

- \*CHICKEN/FISH DINNERS, Friday, 4:05-5:30 p.m. needs a few more people.
  - \*Serving PANCAKES, Saturday, 5:30-8:30 a.m. & 10:30-12:30 needs many more volunteers.
  - \*NEW SOUP BOOTH: Friday, 4 p.m. Soup and composting/sorting are taking place in two different places and are separated from each other. We have enough volunteers for the soup but need more people for the trash/compost sorting.
  - \*PEACE & JUSTICE BOOTH, Friday 5-7 p.m.; Saturday, 9-11 a.m. and 11-1 p.m.
  - \*INFORMATION BOOTH: Friday evening and Saturday.
  - \*Distribute BOOKLETS and YARD SIGNS.
  - \*DISPLAY TABLE is Sunday, March 15. Bring your quilts, comforters, knitted and crocheted items, arts and craft items and other homemade items.
  - \*Questions: Ask Gerry Schrock, Marcia Rossi or Roelie Homan.
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### **A big Thank You to my Church Family!!!**

I want to say how surprised I was to receive such a wonderful celebration for my retirement from parish nursing! I felt God led me to nursing and serving God in this way. To be able to continue nursing in the congregation, with and for people that I knew and loved was a gift to me! I feel sad that my own health problems have made it necessary for me to cut back in what I do. But I want you to feel free to call me if you have a need that I could help you with. If I cannot, I will direct you to someone who can. It is with joy that I share with you persons who have offered to fill the space that may have been left by me. For hospital visits call Ron Ropp. He has years of experience being a hospital chaplain. Also available to you for home visits or counsel over the phone are Barry and/or Marge Weaver, and Lois and Wayne Hochstetler. The church office is also able to direct your call.

I feel a need to apologize if I missed a time when you needed me and I did not come. We are all here to help each other and I pray that we will always give that gift of receiving when we are in need. Thank you again for allowing me to minister to you and thank you for your love and appreciation shown to me in so many ways!

Majorie Nester

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### **Creation Care Confab**

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

**If in Doubt, Throw it Out**

- 1 - Recycling becomes impossible when too much contamination occurs, which means good recyclables could be sent to the landfill
- 2 - Recycling machinery can break when contaminants get tangled
- 3 - Unsafe work environments are created for those sorting our stuff



4 - The worth of recyclables can be devalued by contamination, which could mean buyers stop buying or taking our materials  
Use the following links to know what to recycle and what not to:  
[recycle coach](#) (also available as a phone app)  
[Link](#) to the City of Bloomington's recycling Info  
[Link](#) to the Town of Normal's recycling Info  
[Link](#) to recycling info for other communities in McLean County

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### Bethel College Choir Sings in Grain Bin

Which Bethel College is this? I used to be a technical writer for GSI Grain Bins so this struck a chord with me. [Click on this link](#). Laurie

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### Birthdays

Amy Reiman March 4  
Connie Satchwell March 6  
Olivia Petri March 7  
Laura Dick March 8  
Andy Reeser March 9

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### 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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.

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## Voice of the Day

We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.

- John Stott

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## Building Use

**Wednesday, March 4**

5 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous

7 p.m. Back to Basics

**Thursday, March 5**

5:30 p.m. HAAQG Board

6:30 p.m. HAAQG Meeting

## Friday, March 6

8 a.m. HAAQG Workshop

## Saturday, March 7

8 a.m. HAAQG Workshop

10 a.m. Overeaters Anonymous

## Monday, March 9

5:30 p.m. Al-Anon

5:30 p.m. Wild Ones Board

7 p.m. Wild Ones Meeting

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### Today's Chuckle

Two men came to install some new floor covering in the kitchen. Once they had moved the stove and refrigerator out of the way, it was not long before the job was done.

As they were getting ready to leave, they were asked to put the heavy appliances back in place. The two men said that would cost an additional \$145 service fee, stating it was not in their contract. The homeowner really had no choice but to pay them.

As soon as they left, however, the doorbell rang. It was the two men. They asked the homeowner to move a car that was blocking their van.

The homeowner told them there would be a fee for that: \$145.

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### Serving this week

South Greeters: John & Kay Reimer

West Greeter: Adam Augspurger

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Louise & Larry Reeser & Kay & Jim Sommer

Sermon: Gary Martin

Worship Leader: Marge Weaver

Song Leader: Barry Weaver

Accompanist: Dorothy Loepp

Scripture Reader: Marge Weaver

Children's Time: Holly Zehr

Children's Song Leader: Randy & Holly Zehr

Technology: Sarah Nichols

Toddler Nursery: Sarah Nichols

Preschool Nursery: Jeremy Haab

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### MHF seeks half-time Exec

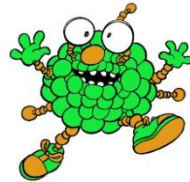
Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) is seeking a half-time Executive Director to start between May and September 2020 who is committed to Anabaptist values and the mission of MHF, has proven skills in administration, communication, and networking, and has an intergenerationally compelling vision for MHF. Interested persons are invited to send a resume and statement of intent, including the broad strokes of your vision and thoughts about a strategic plan, to [president@mennohealth.org](mailto:president@mennohealth.org). More information at [www.mennohealth.org](http://www.mennohealth.org).

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## Food in Kitchen

We are busy people and we all hate to see food go to waste. Lately the rule about labeling all food in the kitchen including the refrigerators and freezers has been largely ignored. Please label ALL food left in the kitchen including condiments. If the food is intended for a certain group please indicate that. If you want anyone to eat it so it does not go to waste, say so. Food left in the frig or freezer unlabeled does not get eaten because no feels they have the right to do so. Therefore, we are wasting a lot of food - especially ice cream.

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## 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!

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## Missing

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

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## Please Wear Your Nametag

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

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## Minutes

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

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## 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.

