



The Midweek Friday
2020

Mennonite Church of Normal

March 20,

Zoom

In the near future MCN will offer a worship experience over Zoom which is a video teleconferencing platform. Zoom is free and very user friendly. One option is to simply call in from your telephone, follow the prompts (code is below in yellow) and listen to the worship experience. Plus MCN volunteers can coach you on Zoom over the phone. Here is a video on how to use Zoom sent by a clergy person [link](#).

Starting this coming Tuesday Laurie will offer Zoom training on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m. If you do not have Zoom downloaded on your computer, "tablet" or smart phone it will prompt you to download it. Your device will need a camera, microphone and speakers. These items are built into laptops, tablets and smart phones but may have to be purchased for a desktop computer. But you can always connect to Zoom using any telephone - you will be able to listen to the session whether it be a committee meeting or worship. Hopefully we will soon have volunteers willing to call you and coach you over the phone to start using Zoom. Here is the invitation to the Tuesday and Thursday Zoom learning sessions. Any time after 4:30 p.m. you can try to start the session. Here's one important tip. If you can't see the task bar for Zoom you have to "hover over" the bottom of your screen with your cursor.

Laurie Vial is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Zoom Training for MCN

Time: 5 PM Central Time but can start downloading Zoom and getting ready at 4:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday and Thursday

[Join Zoom Meeting by double clicking on this link.](https://zoom.us/j/683747439)

<https://zoom.us/j/683747439>

Meeting ID: **683 747 439**

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,683747439# US (Chicago)

Use this phone number to join by calling in from any type of phone.

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Worship

Worship services are cancelled for the next eight weeks. This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday in Lent. Worship readings, songs, children's story idea, scripture and sermon for March 22, are available [via this link](#). We are working on a video worship experience on Zoom, to begin March 29 so start practicing with Zoom!

Coronavirus Information

I have been asked by the Church Board to provide some Coronavirus information for The Midweek as it comes out three times weekly. Our Church Board, Pastoral Council, and Staff have been at work making some difficult decisions and planning for the potential outbreak of the virus in our community. As of yesterday McLean County has its first case of Covid -19. This case is a man in his 70's who has tested positive and is in isolation. It is reported that the man is in good condition and is being treated in accordance with strong infection prevention protocols. This virus evolves rapidly primarily through person-to-person contact and the determined risk may change daily. The basic facts about the disease are included here. Please see fact sheet below this article.

(hotlinks will show in blue for you to click on)

To protect yourself, stay up to date with the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [website](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-19) at [cdc.gov/covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-19)

Other informative sites include:

[National Institutes of Health](https://www.nih.gov) at [nih.gov](https://www.nih.gov)

[World Health Organization](https://www.who.int) at [who.int](https://www.who.int)

[Advocate Aurora Health](https://www.advocateauroahealth.org) at [advocateauroahealth.org](https://www.advocateauroahealth.org)

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are affected by the virus and the healthcare professionals who are caring for them. In addition our thoughts and prayers are with our Church Board, Pastoral Council, Church Staff, Volunteers and Church Family as we work together in this difficult time.

Mary Ann Watkins

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Fact Sheet

What is Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new coronavirus that has not been seen previously in humans. It was first detected in China and has only been identified since December 2019. Patients with COVID-19 are being evaluated and cared for differently than patients with common coronavirus diagnosis.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms range from mild illness similar to a cold or flu to severe symptoms possibly requiring hospitalization. Some deaths have occurred in older adults with other health conditions. Symptoms can appear from 2 days to 2 weeks after exposure and include:



How does it spread?

Details about COVID-2019 are still unfolding, but it is believed to spread these ways:

- Respiratory droplets from an infected person who coughs or sneezes
- Close contact (within 6 feet) or physical touch with an infected person
- Contact with infected surfaces or objects

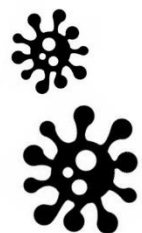
Am I at risk?

The coronavirus disease 2019 situation is evolving rapidly and the determined risk may change daily. Continue to monitor updates within your community and areas you may visit. See the [CDC's travel guidelines](#) concerning any global locations where you may be planning to travel.

How do I prevent myself from getting COVID-19?

These everyday actions can be used to prevent the spread of COVID-19 :

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid being in close contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then discard the tissue.
- Face masks should not be used for prevention. Only those that are infected should use them.



Is there treatment for COVID-19?

There are currently no vaccines to prevent COVID-19 infection or specific antiviral medications approved for treatment. If you are sick with COVID-19, stay home from work, school and public areas except to receive medical care. Do not use public transportation, ride-shares or taxi services. Isolate yourself from people and animals. Keep to one room away from people and use a separate bathroom if possible. Drink plenty of fluids, rest and take pain/fever medications. Severe symptoms require medical attention which may result in hospitalization.

Source: Center for Disease Control (CDC)



1. The building is closed. The Church Board decided this is necessary to limit the spread of the virus. Laurie is working from home, and will make one trip a week to the building for an hour or two (if allowed). Gary is working from home. If you need to retrieve something from the building, please contact Laurie Vial or Lotus Hershberger.
2. Pastoral Council continues to work on plans to involve many in caring for all of us, and keeping us connected. Special thanks to everyone who is already doing this! Cluster Groups will be part of this plan. An initial step is to invite anyone to volunteer for specific needs, through sign-up genius [at this link](#). Cluster leaders and Pastoral Council are currently attempting to contact everyone to assess immediate needs. Thank you to new cluster leaders Lynn Reha for Southwest, and Connie Satchwell for Northwest. More details on Monday. If you have immediate needs for pastoral care or anything else, please contact Gary Martin, Ron Ropp, Melika Hershberger, Connie Satchwell, Keith Unzicker or Steve Stenger. (Contact information is below)
3. We all need to religiously follow the new rules for reducing the spread of the virus. But in times like these, some old rules need to be broken! One is “I don’t want to bother others, I’ll suffer alone.” Of course, it’s not a rule; but many of us behave as if it is! Please let someone else know what you need. For many that may be simply someone to talk to. That’s the new rule! It is as important to maintain our emotional health as it is our physical health these days. Remember: allowing someone else to minister to you, helps the one providing that help. (If you disagree, take it up with Jesus: that’s his point in Luke 10:1-14, and Matthew 25:31-46, and throughout his teaching!)
4. Mary Ann Watkins has graciously accepted an invitation to be MCN’s point person for providing us with accurate information and helpful resources regarding COVID-19, via Midweek. There is so much false information circulating...we all need to be vigilant for our own benefit, and to help others dispel the rumors.
5. We plan to “gather” via Zoom, for worship on March 29, at 9:30 a.m. Watch for more details.
6. We encourage those who are able, to continue your faithful financial support. The Mutual Aid fund is already being used to assist MCN households, so as you are able, give generously to the Mutual Aid fund. You can mail a check to MCN, or use the electronic giving option using the “Give” tab on the church website.
7. Please send joys and concerns to Laurie at church@normalmennonite.org so she can share them in the Midweek. Use “Sharing” in the subject line.

Melika Hershberger mfkhersh@gmail.com 309-888-6241
Connie Satchwell cssatch@hotmail.com 309-287-6124

Keith Unzicker keithunzicker@gmail.com 309-369-5008
or Steve Stenger ststeng@gmail.com 309-825-2464



Church Directory Proofreading Deadline Extended

The Directory was published from the church database **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. Also proofread the supplemental pages.

You can look at the file online using [this link](#) . 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.** If you are willing to help with this step please email Laurie at church@normalmennonite.org.

Thanks for your help in making it up-to-date and accurate. Laurie

Staff Hours and Contact Info

Virtual Church Office Hours M-F 9 to 4

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

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 with those in care facilities or homebound. This care will be done by phone calls.

Laurie Vial, Office Manager; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622. will forward to the new church cell phone 217.255.2119.

Bryan Oyer, custodian

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



This Week at MCN

Even though the building is closed, committees and other groups can still meet by Zoom either using a computer with a video camera, microphone and speakers, or by calling in from your phone.

Laurie will set up these Zoom meetings. Please stay in touch with Laurie to keep our calendar up-to-date with these Zoom meetings.



Since the last issue:

- those who are or soon will be out of work and out of a paycheck.
 - John & Evelyn Bertsche and Ron and Jo Ropp who can no longer visit each other in person.
 - Households dealing with implications for school closures: cabin fever, and the loss of so many events our children/youth were looking forward to.
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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.)
 - Evelyn Bertsche - McLean County Nursing Home
 - Roy Jiles - Evergreen
 - Joyce Schmucker - Luther Oaks Assisted Living
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Milepost 80 The New Normal

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access, to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

These verses were part of last Sunday's Epistle reading. How timely! Paul was writing to Christians going through trying times: our suffering produces endurance, which produces character, which produces hope.

The detour sign has been replaced, because our current journey which started as a detour, has become the new normal for the foreseeable future. It's a road none of us have traveled. It will be challenging for all of us, and very challenging for some of us. Rather than thinking of it as a perpetual detour, let's embrace it as our new journey, which has potential to lead us to an even better place. Because of the Spirit's work among us, I believe there will be a new (Mennonite Church of) Normal!

The Meserete Kristos church in Ethiopia (with Mennonite missionary origins) was forced underground when a Marxist government took over the nation in the 1980s. With buildings confiscated, pastors imprisoned, and public meetings banned, they developed a small group system. To everyone's astonishment ten years later when the Marxists were overthrown, the 5,000 member church had 50,000 members.

On our last gathering on March 8 (which seems like months ago), I wrote in my report: “All the spiritual gifts needed to be a dynamic, healthy congregation are present.” Because that is based on what Scripture teaches about the role of the Holy Spirit, it continues to be true even though our reality has changed dramatically.

Please note the link in this Midweek, to sign up for specific opportunities to use your gifts to bless others, and also the link for March 22 worship resources. And...keep reading Midweek Monday, Wednesday and Friday faithfully. It is now our primary way to communicate and stay connected. -Gary Martin

Transition Visitation Report

Gary Martin's Transition Visitation Report is available online in written format (PDF) and an audio recording. To access either [use this link.](#)

Menno Haven Youth Summer Camp registration

...is now open at mennohaven.com/summer-camps1 for campers going into grades 3-12. There you will also find camp schedules, descriptions, prices, as well as answers to general questions.

Here are some discounts and dates to be aware of for Menno Haven's youth summer camps:

Free T-shirt: If you pay in full by May 1, 2020, you will automatically receive a free 2020 Menno Haven summer camp t-shirt.

Early Registration Discount: If you pay in full by March 31, 2020, you will automatically receive a free 2020 Menno Haven summer camp t-shirt AND a \$15 discount.

First-Time Camper Discount: If you have never attended a Menno Haven youth summer camp, you can request a \$15 First Time Camper discount.

Sibling Discount: With one full price registration, you can request a \$25 Sibling Discount for each additional sibling.

MCN camperships - to receive a discount on camping, young people should participate in "Blessing Bingo." [Here is the link.](#)



Birthdays and anniversaries will be published on Wednesdays.



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](#).



Virtual Office Hours

M-F 9-4

Deadline for Midweek items is noon M-W-F

Voice of the Day

Plague in the Bible is not a storm weathered before a return to normalcy. It's a call to come together in new ways in order to survive, hold the powerful responsible for their unjust policies and the lies they've told to cover up injustice, and rebuild on foundations of love and justice.

- Liz Theoharis



Building Use

Our building is closed until it is safe to be open again.

Today's Chuckle

A visitor to the town approached a local person and asked, "What's the quickest way to the next town?"

The local, scratched his head, "Are you walking or driving?" he asked the stranger.

"I'm driving," said the stranger.

"Well, that's the quickest way."
