



The Midweek Wednesday  
25, 2020

Mennonite Church of Normal

March

### Helpful websites:

### Update from Gov. Pritzker's Press Conference 3/24-25/20

Gov. J.B. Pritzker is holding daily press conferences at 2:30 p.m. Yesterday he focused mainly on testing - testing sites and the number of tests kits available. He also announced that nurses and doctors not currently working can sign up to help out during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Today the head of the Illinois Public Health Department announced there are 1,865 confirmed cases in the state and there have been 19 deaths. Gov. Pritzker went over federal aid legislation that was worked out overnight including a payment to every tax payer who makes under a certain amount. The state and federal tax filing deadline has been pushed to July 15.

He also announced numerous state financial relief efforts. In addition to rules prohibiting evictions for unpaid rent, there is help with mortgage relief and no utilities can be shut off. There is relief for small businesses, the hospitality industry, healthcare and free-lance and self-employed people. And there is no waiting period to apply for unemployment. No one's credit rating will suffer during this crisis. A place to start is to go to the state website and look at the Covid-19 page.

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### Midweek

The Midweek is published three times a week during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Previous issues are posted in the lower right hand corner of the church website.

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### Zoom

MCN will offer worship, committee meetings and more over Zoom, which is a video

teleconferencing platform. Zoom is free and very user friendly. One option is to simply call in from any telephone, follow the prompts and listen. You will be asked to enter the meeting code followed by the # sign. Here is a video on how to use Zoom sent by a clergy person [link](#). If you need help call me at 309-452-6622.

I 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.

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.

From 4:30 to 5 p.m. you can call me at 309-452-6622 and I will help you get connected. Be patient, lots of people will be calling. Ross Hershberger has also volunteered to help with this and he can continue to receive calls after 5 p.m. while I am busy with the presentation. His phone number is 309-660-0710. If you keep getting a busy signal you can call Melika Hershberger at 309-888-6241 and she will take a message. After the training has ended I can stay on the Zoom session and Ross and I continue to try to help people. Laurie

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>

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)

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## Worship

Worship will be on Zoom beginning this Sunday, March 29 at 9:30 a.m. The Zoom link for worship will be shared here on Friday.



### Milepost 85      Trusting the Lord in Times of Trouble

From a sea of troubles I call out to you, Lord.

Won't you please listen as I beg for mercy?

If you kept record of our sins, no one could last long.

But you forgive us, and so we will worship you.

With all my heart, I am waiting, Lord, for you!

I trust your promises.

I wait for you more eagerly than a soldier

on guard duty waits for the dawn.

Israel, trust the Lord! He is always merciful,

and he has the power to save you.

Israel, the Lord will save you from all of your sins.  
Psalm 130, Contemporary English Version

This is the lectionary psalm for Sunday. How timely! We too, call out to God from our sea of troubles. We wait for God's saving power to free us from this pandemic. Right now, we are all appropriately focused on doing what we can to help everyone survive. We don't want to think about sin. But the Psalmist's reference to sin, includes more than a spiritualized understanding of sin.

As we eventually come through the pandemic, I hope we can accept the sobering truth: global participation in the sin of destroying God's wonderful creation, is having immediate deadly unintended consequences. Scientists tell us that these viruses have always been there, among wildlife. But as wildlife habitat is destroyed, human interaction with wildlife increases, creating more opportunities for these new viruses to move from animals to humans.

The Holy Spirit has placed individuals among us, who are passionate about living in ways which sustain the planet. I encourage you folk to lead us! I recycle religiously, reduce consumption of fossil fuels, avoid processed foods, and try to buy more food locally, but that's just the tip of the proverbial iceberg, which reminds us of the unprecedented melting of real icebergs. I pray for courage to repent, and embrace the more difficult lifestyle changes I need to make. Lord, have mercy. Save us from all of our sins. -Gary Martin

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### MCN Coronavirus Response Update, March 25, 2020

1. To respond to congregational needs, we invite individuals to volunteer for specific tasks, through sign-up genius. [Use this link.](#) Thanks to those who have already signed up! 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)
2. We encourage those who are able, to continue your faithful financial support for the operating budget. 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 "give" tab on the church website.

**A new small group via Zoom:** The primary purpose of this group is to help each other discern passion, spiritual gifts, and callings. If you know your spiritual gifts, please consider participating-- you can help others in this process. We begin by sharing our life stories. While this will be a supportive experience, support is not the primary objective. We may be able to complete our objective in eight 90-minute sessions. To accomplish this objective:

Group size is limited to eight (if more inquire, two groups may start)

Group interaction is crucial, so regular participation needs to be a priority in our schedules.

Participants should sense the Spirit's call to join.

If interested, contact Gary Martin as soon as possible. When seven have inquired, an exploratory meeting will be convened at a time suitable for all. Those who want to continue will find suitable dates.

### Movie Recommendation for Cabin Fever and Christian Education:

I found the 2017 movie, *The Shack*, based on William P. Young's book, helpful in grasping the roles and relationships within the Trinity: three persons, working together seamlessly toward a common purpose. Yes, the book was criticized by some theologians, and the movie by many movie critics--perhaps not worthy of being called cinema, so I changed the heading above. And yes, the tragedy Mac endures is heavy. But the highlight for me was simply watching Papa, Jesus and Sophia function and interact. Faith is primarily about relationships, not theological correctness. It's always risky to explain God using human characters, yet Jesus did that all the

time in his parables. How else can we understand? If you are not acquainted with the story, check Wikipedia for a plot summary. If you don't have online access to movies, an inexpensive dvd can be found at super-stores which sell groceries. Buy one, and pass it around!

Melika Hershberger [mfkhersh@gmail.com](mailto:mfkhersh@gmail.com) 309-888-6241  
Connie Satchwell [cssatch@hotmail.com](mailto:cssatch@hotmail.com) 309-287-6124  
Keith Unzicker [keithunzicker@gmail.com](mailto:keithunzicker@gmail.com) 309-369-5008  
Steve Stenger [ststeng@gmail.com](mailto:ststeng@gmail.com) 309-825-2464

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### Giving Blood

Blood donations are down during the Covid-19 Pandemic. We asked the local chapter of the Red Cross to share information about when and where to donate blood in McLean County. Watch for details on Friday.

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### Local Team Forms to Help Area Citizens in High Risk Group

[Click here](#) for the Pantagraph article on the new McLean County Covid-10 Mutual Aid Team which can run errands for people in high risk groups. Later in the article there is information about free food for those who are food insecure.

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### Staff Contact Info

Virtual Church Office Hours M-F 9 to 4

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor [gmartin5@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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Since the last issue:

"As a former Chaplain I am in touch with the staff providing pastoral care at our hospitals. They are part of the health care team. When the news speaks of staff putting their lives on the line during this pandemic, doctors and nurses are seen on the 'front line'. But though they may not have hands-on contact, chaplains are still at risk. And their great burden is addressing the spiritual/emotional anguish of those facing tremendous fear and possible death. We have a number of interns and residents in chaplaincy training at BroMenn. They are in special need of our prayers as they deal with some of their greatest challenges in shaping their ministries during this epidemic." Ron Ropp

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### **Visits to Our Members in Care Facilities**

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

- Ruth Marquis - Heritage Health
  - Lloyd Combs - Martin Health Care
  - Deborah Spacek - Evergreen
  - Jo Ropp - McLean County Nursing Home
  - Evelyn Bertsche - McLean County Nursing Home
  - Roy Jiles - Evergreen
  - Joyce Schmucker - Luther Oaks Assisted Living
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### **How to Protect Yourself From Coronavirus When Grocery Shopping**

(Editor's note: This information is related to the grocery store article we published Monday - it is near the bottom of this newsletter. Thanks to Andy and Denise Hedberg for this information.

For an article from Consumer Reports on Protecting Yourself from Coronavirus When Grocery Shopping click on [this link](#).

"We used InstaCart for the first time this past weekend, and found it useful and easy to use. It opens up delivery options for other stores including: Schnucks, Target, Hy-Vee, Fresh Thyme, Petco, Kroger, Meijer, CVS Pharmacy, Aldi, Jewel-Osco and Sam's Club."

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**Anniversaries**

Joe & Mary Jantze 48 years March 26

**Birthdays**

Bob Kauffman March 25

Meghan Reha March 27

Jeff Reiman March 27

Gail Fisher March 28

Sophia Hubbs March 28

Aaron Petri March 29

Steve Stenger March 29



**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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## Virtual Office Hours

M-F 9-4

Deadline for Midweek items is noon M-W-F

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## Voice of the Day

We can believe that God is present and still be either six feet away or in the safety of our homes on Sunday morning. The church will always be the church no matter how physically close its members are. God isn't just found in the confines of a physical church building – God meets us where we are.

- Miguel Petrosky

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## Building Use

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

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## Today's Chuckle

While carpenters were working outside the old house I had just bought, I busied myself with indoor cleaning. I had just finished washing the floor when one of the workmen asked to use the bathroom.

With dismay I looked from his muddy boots to my newly scrubbed floors. "Just a minute," I said, thinking of a quick solution. "I'll put down newspapers."

"That's all right, lady," he responded. "I'm already trained."

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## Below are older articles you may find valuable:

### Menno Haven Youth Summer Camp registration

...is now open at [mennohaven.com/summer-camps1](http://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.](#)**

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## 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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org).

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

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## 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.](#)

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## Grocery Store Delivery and Pick-up Info

Compiled by Cindy Ropp, Laurie Vial and Lotus Hershberger

Three Bloomington-Normal grocery stores offer pick-up and delivery services: Kroger (Oakland Avenue only), Meijer and Wal-Mart (both locations). There is a fee, usually close to \$5 for pick-up and close to \$10 for delivery. Wal-Mart says delivery is free for the first 15 days after you sign up. Kroger may offer the first three pick-ups for free.

These services require signing up with a credit or debit card and placing your order online. For pick-up they will place your order in your car when you pull up. As we go to press these pick-up and delivery times are about three days in the future.

There is something called Instacart that will purchase and deliver groceries from many stores. If you have information related to pick-up or delivery please send to Laurie to share with your MCN family. If you go to the store in person most stores are not allowing the re-usable bags at this time. Remember to sanitize your groceries before touching them or let food set for 72 hours for any live virus to die. Also, many stores have special hours for those in the high risk category.

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