



The Midweek Friday

Mennonite Church of Normal  
**The Midweek**

March 27, 2020

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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### Worship Information for Sunday

We worship together, in our homes, this Sunday, 9:30 a.m.! (see instructions below for connecting via computer or phone)

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Show Us, God, your power over death itself

The zoom worship experience will include music, scripture, children's time, readings, sermon and sharing. To prepare, please read Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45. The sermon, "It takes a village to raise the dead" is based on the Ezekiel and John passages. For a print copy of the service (song texts, readings, and sermon), [click here](#).

Ezekiel, Mary and Martha could see the obvious: the reality of death. But God showed them what God sees—the Reality of God's power over death. God desires that we too, see what God sees. Both texts make the point that this happens in community. Many things about our current reality, are obvious. Can we see beyond the obvious, to what God sees?

Zoom invite

Topic: MCN Worship

Time: Mar 29, 2020 09:20 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting [click here](#).  
<https://zoom.us/j/762323722>

Meeting ID: 762 323 722

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,762323722# US (Chicago)

Here is the phone number and code to join worship by any phone.

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 762 323 722

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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 Laurie at 309-452-6622. Ross Hershberger has also volunteered to help 309-660-0710. You can also call Lydia Hedberg. 309-660-9232.

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## Social Hour

This coming Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. the Mennonite Church of Normal will gather via Zoom to socialize with each other. Leroy Loepp said he wishes he could make great coffee for everyone. You will have to provide your own coffee, tea, hot chocolate or whatever but please connect to Zoom and connect with each other. Monday's Midweek will have the link and phone information.

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## Milepost 87 Called to Community



But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile,  
and pray to the Lord on its behalf,  
for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

This verse has been used appropriately as a call to put the wellbeing (shalom, in Hebrew) of the community first, because that is what will be best for us as individuals. It is exciting to hear how many at MCN are selflessly seeking the wellbeing of the community. Please share these stories, to encourage one another to walk in God's ways in these challenging times. Write them down, and send them to Gary, so we can decide how best to communicate them. (See the new column

below: God at Work among us.]

Let's go a bit deeper into the context of this verse. God's people were in captivity in a foreign land. False prophets were misleading God's people regarding how they were to understand their plight (Jeremiah 28:2-4). God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah: "Tune out these false prophets" (27:14, 16-17; 23:16; 14:14). That is the context in which Jeremiah spoke the words above, which God wanted the people to hear. That's what prophets do!

The counsel is clear and timely: we are all in this together—as the human race. Seeking the wellbeing of the world, is what will be best for us as individuals and as a nation. It is God’s desire in all situations. But in times of crisis, our lives literally depend on it. And Scripture reveals repeatedly that Ignoring this principle in ordinary times, is what enables crises to develop.

God’s Word through the Prophet Jeremiah, can help us discern wisdom among the differing voices we hear today.

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Can we know our specific calling, within the Jeremiah 29:7 effort? Jesus’ words provide guidance. Each of our callings is unique. Our calling fits us well, so it is not heavy to fulfill. It may change in light of circumstances. We find clarity of call by coming to Jesus, and learning from him. When we pursue our unique calling, we will find rest for our soul. It is our responsibility to seek clarity of call, but we can’t do it by ourselves. We need brothers and sisters to help us. That is the focus of the new small group being offered.

In our current reality, calls are changing for many of us. We may have been called to a specific ministry at MCN, but today, our calling may be to increase care for a spouse, or parent, or our children, extended family members, friends or co-workers. For some at MCN, this new calling is feeling overwhelming. Others at MCN, without these heavy family responsibilities which have intensified in recent weeks, may find new callings to minister to those who find themselves overwhelmed.

Let’s encourage each other to discern and embrace our new calls, let go of other calls which the Spirit will provide others to respond to, and claim Jesus’ promise that in doing so, we will find rest for our souls. -Gary Martin

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### God at work in our lives!

Alexa Hoffmann's 9th birthday was Sunday, March 22 and they had a party in the front yard. (If you remember it was snowing/raining that afternoon!) Hoffman's had made a pinata, so Alexa and Jace were taking turns trying to smash it. Ponnou-Delaffon's cheered them on from across the street and Culbertson's provided the music from a neighbor's porch - "Somewhere over the rainbow" on saxophone, bass guitar, and ukulele. What a neat way to make a special birthday when you can't have friends over! (submitted by Melika Hershberger)

#### “Unexpected Joy: Ping Pong and Purging”

After the first few weeks of shelter in place, we could all use a break from the bad news. A few unexpected joys for me have been the bonus family time, the fiercely competitive ping pong games and having time to purge the closets, the basement and even clean behind the stove (not that it needed it). Do you have an unexpected joy that you could share with the congregation? We would all enjoy hearing about it. Please send them to Gary for inclusion in the Midweek. - Keith Unzicker

From Pastoral Council: Thanks to those who have signed up to help with specific tasks to respond to the new needs we have at MCN. More volunteers are needed. To sign up, [click here](#). 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)

**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. We may be able to complete our objective in eight 90-minute sessions. Please note:

Group size is limited to eight.

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, is in Sunday's sermon!

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. The local Red Cross chapter is at 1 Westport Ct. Bloomington. 1-800-RED-CROSS [website](#). The Red Cross has new safety measures in place.

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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.

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### This Week at MCN

#### Saturday

10 a.m. Christian Education Committee via Zoom

3 p.m. Worship practice for worship participants

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship via Zoom

#### Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Church Board via Zoom

#### Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Pastoral Council and Cluster Leaders via Zoom



Since the last issue:

--for healthcare workers especially those from our congregation, Courtney Yoder, Carrie Stalter, and Meredith Satchwell, Kayla Belzer, Bev Collins, Becky Josefson, Caroline Roeschley. (We likely missed some! Please let Laurie know.)

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### **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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### **Friday Coronavirus Update**

Things are moving and changing quickly with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) news. Locally Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and Advocate Eureka Hospital have set up tents outside of their emergency departments in preparation for a potential surge of patients as the COVID-19 continues to spread in Central Illinois. According to information in today's Pantagraph the tents will provide space for patients with Coronavirus symptoms to be screened. Patients requiring further treatment will be brought into the main hospital buildings. Until the tents are fully operational, patients coming to the emergency department with COVID-19 symptoms of cough, fever, sore throat and shortness of breath are using a separate entrance to the hospital and being treated away from patients who do not have the virus symptoms. Any person admitted to BroMenn with symptoms of COVID-19 is being tested. At both BroMenn and OSF St. Joseph there are not enough test kits to test everyone who wants to be tested. At BroMenn two patients diagnosed with COVID-19 are being treated but a number of patients have tested negative. At OSF two patients with COVID-19 are being treated and several others have tested negative.

A ninth case of COVID-19 in McLean County has been announced this morning. There is no other information available about the most recent positive test. McLean County Health Department officials have announced that there have been 134 tests completed with 85 negative results and 49 others currently being processed. There has been one fatality resulting from the virus.

According to Capital News Illinois, on Thursday Illinois saw its largest single-day increase in COVID-19 cases at 673, and deaths at seven. Cases have been reported in 37 counties, but health officials say everyone should assume the virus is in circulation where they live. Illinois has now recorded 2,538 cases and 26 deaths directly related to COVID-19. More than 16,000 people have

been tested.

The number of people around the world who have contracted the coronavirus has surged past 500,000 and the United States tops the list, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally. US deaths have now topped 1,200. Worldwide, the death toll climbed past 23,000, according to Johns Hopkins' running count.

Medical professionals are asking people with symptoms to stay home and call their medical provider if their symptoms worsen. Eighty percent of COVID-19 cases are mild and don't require specific treatment. OSF and Advocate Medical Group locations remain open with many appointments now taking place by telephone and video visits. The best advice to us at this time is to stay home as much as possible, maintain a 6 foot distance from others, wash hands frequently, cover coughs and sneezes and disinfect frequently used surfaces. By taking these precautions the spread of COVID-19 MAY be lessened.

I have found interesting and meaningful information at YouTube: What Coronavirus Symptoms look like. You might find it interesting also. [Here is the link.](#)

Stay healthy and safe! Mary Ann Watkins

[This is a link](#) to expanded Covid-19 Virus testing in McLean Count announced in The Pantagraph.  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

<https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/coronavirus>

<https://health.mcleancountyil.gov/734/COVID-19-Changes-in-Operations>

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### Press Conference Updates

Gov. Pritzker continues to hold daily press conferences at 2:30 p.m. His Thursday and Friday press conferences highlighted more state and federal programs that will help many if not all individuals and businesses. Some monies will go to local nonprofits to distribute funds locally. Today new programs were announced to aid the homeless, those with disabilities and those who fear domestic violence. More funds are also going to SNAP and WIC.

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### Updates from Menno Haven

We have updated our summer camp deposit requirement so that if Menno Haven does need to cancel summer camp, we will refund in full any monies (including the typical "non-refundable deposit) that was paid. We hope that these are two small ways that Menno Haven can care for your family in this uncertain time.

Summer Staff Recommendation Grant - If your family recommends a new summer staff member to Menno Haven and that staff is hired, your family will receive a \$150 grant towards your child's 2020 MH Youth Summer Camp registration fee. Applicants must apply by April 30 and must indicate on their application that your family referred them to work at Menno Haven. This grant can only be used for registrations costs towards 2020 Youth Summer Camp. If you have already paid in full, the \$150 will be refunded for your family.

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Birthdays and anniversaries will be published on Wednesdays.

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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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## Virtual Office Hours

M-F 9-4

Deadline for Midweek items is noon M-W-F

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## Voice of the Day

COVID-19 forces us to push back against the narrative of individualism and remember that we all depend on each other.



### **Building Use**

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

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### **Today's Chuckle**

Preacher: "This morning's worship went well, but I just don't think the sermon ever got off the ground."

Preacher's wife: "Well, it sure did taxi long enough."

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### **Below are older articles you may find valuable:**

#### **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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#### **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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#### **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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