



The Midweek Wednesday

Mennonite Church of Normal

May 13, 2020

Worship

Join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Milepost 134 "Who wants to be a dependent?"

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." John 14:26

As a TV game show concept, "Who wants to be a dependent?" would be a dog that don't hunt. Interdependent describes how we are to function within the Body of Christ: neither exclusively independent of, nor exclusively dependent on our brothers and sisters. Interdependent means integrating both dependence and independence.

But dependent does describe our relationship with God! God claims billions of dependents on the divine 1040. We may struggle with that, because it implies we can't make it on our own. But we can't!

Jesus promised a helper for his followers, for precisely that reason. In John 13 & 14, Jesus makes three commands: love each other (13:34), have faith in him (14:11), and obey his commands (14:15). Sounds simple on paper. In this Sunday's text (John 14:15-31), Jesus in essence says to his followers: "Don't try this on your own. Rely on the Holy Spirit."

Just outside our large kitchen window is an old picnic table. An amazing variety of birds (and other critters) come there daily for food and water. A bluebird couple, put on quite a show yesterday. Their two juvenile offspring had been flying on their

own for just a few days, but were still dependent on their parents for food. They stood still patiently for ten minutes on the edge of the table, as their parents repeatedly brought mealworms to their open beaks, from a dish just two feet away. When the parents left briefly several times, the juveniles would turn around to keep an eye on where they went.

We like to think of ourselves as grown up and able to feed ourselves. But in reality, we are always dependent on our loving Parent for daily bread (all of our needs). The Holy Spirit may at times deliver our daily bread through a brother or sister in Christ, who is using their spiritual gift. If you have experienced such a delivery, tell the deliverer, and others. That helps all of us discern our spiritual gifts. -Gary Martin



MCN Social Hour Every Wednesday

Every 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. **Gallery or grid view is probably best.** Mute your microphone except when you are talking. If you are on a laptop hold down the spacebar while you are talking. The host will break you up into smaller groups to allow more conversation, if needed.

Topic: MCN Social Hour

Time: Every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Central Time

Pastor Jane's Tree



The Yellowwood tree Pastor Jane Roeschley donated to the church in honor of her retirement has been planted on the south lawn at the southeast corner of the playground, in accordance with the Campus Use Plan. At full height, it won't block the view of the signage on the south side of the church. Thanks to Jane and family for this generous donation!



This Week at MCN

Wednesday

7:30 p.m. Social Hour (Zoom)

Thursday

6:30 a.m. Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

Saturday

3 p.m. Worship Rehearsal (Zoom)

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship (Zoom)
10:35 a.m. After Worship Options (Zoom)
Tuesday
5:30 p.m. Church Board (Zoom)



Since the last issue:

--Andy and Denise Hedberg ask for prayers for Andy's mom, Jo Hedberg, and Denise's aunt, Peggy Lashley. Andy's mom has fallen several times over the past few days and spent Monday morning in the ER. She sustained a cracked rib and injured foot. A diagnosis has not been made yet for the cause of her falls. COVID-19 has entered the retirement community in the St. Louis area where Denise's aunt lives. She is ok so far, but her neighbor down the hall tested positive.



Zoom

If you need training or help call Laurie at 309-452-6622. The following four people have also volunteered to help Ross Hershberger, 309-660-0710; Lydia Hedberg, 309-660-9232, Terry Wiebenga, 309-452-6159 and Glenn Wilson 309-310-5468. **Important Notice: Please begin updating to Zoom 5.0 [now](#). After May 30, all Zoom users on older versions will receive a forced upgrade when trying to join meetings. Click [here](#) for more information.**

Staff Contact Info

Virtual Office Hours M-F 9 to 4

Deadline for Midweek items is noon M-W-F

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.

Our Members in Care Facilities

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

Ruth Marquis

Heritage Manor, Apt 111
700 E. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IL. 61701

Jo Ropp

McLean County Nursing Home, Apt 451
901 N Main St.
Normal, IL 61761

Evelyn Bertsche

McLean County Nursing Home, Apt 329
901 N. Main St
Normal, IL 61761

Deborah Spacek

Evergreen Village, Apt 292
1701 Evergreen Blvd
Normal, IL 61761

Roy Jiles

Welbrook at Bloomington, Apt 122
1402 Leslie Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704

Joyce Schmucker

Luther Oaks Assisted Living, Apt 2110
601 Lutz Rd
Bloomington, IL 61704-8624

Lloyd Combs

Martin Health Center, Apt C130
2025 E. Lincoln Ave
Bloomington, IL 61701



Birthdays

Kay Reimer May 16
Lucy Unzicker May 18
Rick Harnish May 19
Sam Warfel May 19

Volunteers

Several people have volunteered to help fill out government forms and apply for the many assistance programs that have been announced at local, state and federal levels. Contact a member of Pastoral Council and they will match you up with someone who can help in these areas.

Members of Pastoral Council

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

Voice of the Day

The church is being called back to fulfilling the initial responsibility of ministering to the human condition. - Brandon T. Crowley

Today's Chuckle

My husband and I purchased an old home in Northern New York State from two elderly sisters. Winter was fast approaching and I was concerned about the house's lack of insulation.

"If they could live here all those years, so can we!" my husband confidently declared.

One November night the temperature plunged to below zero, and we woke up to find our interior walls covered with frost.

My husband called the sisters to ask how they had kept warm in the winter.

After a rather brief conversation, he hung up. "For the past 30 years," he muttered, "they've spent the winter in Florida."

MCC has several upcoming webinars:

Tuesday, May 19 at 2 p.m. EST: "Asylum" free immigration webinar. In the continuing six-part webinar series on immigration and border realities, MCC staff and partners from around the country will provide current information and educational tools to understand asylum. In recent years thousands of people have fled persecution and arrived to the U.S. to apply for asylum. Asylum seekers must navigate a difficult and complex process that can involve multiple government agencies. More information and registration, along with recordings of past webinars, at mcc.org/immigration-webinar-series

Wednesday, May 20 at noon EST: "From hearts to hands: Material Resources" free Facebook live webinar. Featuring stories from MCC staff around the world about how resources like comforters, kits and canned meat make a difference. Join us on MCC's Facebook page (facebook.com/MCCpeace) for a livestream where we'll hear directly from MCC workers in Ukraine, Jordan and Canada.

Reminder of MCN Building Policy

The Church Board reminds everyone that Shelter in Place in Illinois has been extended through the end of May. The MCN building remains closed. No one is to enter the building without permission from the Church Board. The Board thanks the congregation for adhering to this policy.

MCN Forms Partnership With B-N Welcoming

MCN and B-N Welcoming have established a fund to help undocumented families who are not eligible for government assistance or stimulus funds. To donate, send a paper check to the church, made out to the church, with B-N Welcoming in the memo line. **Please write a separate check from other giving.** You may also donate on the church website using the Give tab. If you choose the checking account option there is a tiny fee taken. If you give by credit card almost 3% is taken, so you could consider covering that in your donation.