



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

*Offering Christ's peace to hearts, homes, community and world*

# The Midweek

The Midweek Wednesday

Mennonite Church of Normal

March 24, 2021

**Worship this Sunday  
via Zoom at 9:30 a.m.**

## **Lent 2021: Deep calls to Deep**

On Palm Sunday, we go deep into the current, to be called to deep hope. Holly Zehr has the sermon this Sunday, based on John 12:12-16, and Psalm 118: 19-29. Holly writes: "Much of modern life is lived on the surface. We scroll. We skim. We tread water. Jesus calls us to something deeper--a deep dive into the current of God's will, God's love. God's adventure. As we investigate Jesus' triumphal entry on this Palm Sunday, here at the beginning of Passion week, we learn the courage it takes to abandon the surface and dive deep for hope and purpose. If you have little ones at home, please have a scarf, large plant leaf, towel or other longish object to wave when I ask them to during the sermon." Wayne Hochstetler has planned, and will lead this service.

**After worship this Sunday:** We gather as a congregation for a presentation of the Proposed Vision Statement, and to respond with our questions, in breakout groups. The Proposed Vision Statement was e-mailed separately this morning. It is also available at a link in today's Milepost.

**Questions for reflection:** How is God calling you to deep hope? What steadies you when life rushes onward?

**Easter Sunday:** we will remember Jesus' death, and celebrate his resurrection, with Communion. Elsa Raab is planning this service.

**Reminder:** The church building remains closed, despite it being used last week for Relief Sale activity. If you see a vehicle or two in the parking lot, that only means staff are working. To facilitate a smooth transition in office staff over the next several weeks, we ask that you continue to contact Cindy Ropp for permission to enter the building. We hope it won't be too much longer!

This folder contains music from last Sunday [click here](#). Please note that you need to download the music before playing it. Late Saturday afternoon the folder will also include the worship order and sermon slides for this coming Sunday.

### **Lent Schedule: *Deep calls to Deep***

March 28 Deep in the current: Called to deep hope  
Easter, April 4 Deep in the feast: Called to deep living

Holly Zehr  
Gary Martin

## **Transition Process Update**

Please see the Milepost for transition information.



### **Midwest Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity**

Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6. Anyone 5 years and older is welcome! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, temperatures will be taken on arrival and masks are required. Please sign up [here](#).

### **Daily Lenten Meditation Options:**

Meditations written by Goshen College students, staff and faculty, based on the Lenten texts we are using at MCN, are available by [clicking here](#).

Jim Bortell has written daily Lenten meditations for his home congregation, which are available [here](#).



## **On the bench at the Church, Help Yourself!**

1. March issue of the CDC Reporter. This report from the Central District Conference (CDC), one of the Mennonite conferences that the MCN is a member of, is published 6 times a year. It gives information about what is happening in CDC.
2. Flyers from Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center about their summer youth and family programs. There are planned activities for youth of all ages plus families and grandparents beginning in late May. Menno Haven is located at Tiskilwa, about 85 miles from here.

## Milepost 447 A New Direction

By 2024 Mennonite Church of Normal will be :

- a congregation that is equipping all to learn about, walk with, and live out the teachings of Jesus in daily life;
- a dynamic faith community that nurtures and nourishes relationships, so that our care and understanding of each other is deepened;
- an active faith community, developing significant and meaningful relationships through expanding our care for and understanding about/with those beyond MCN.

The full statement, and background information, was emailed this morning, and is available [here](#). The proposal was truly a congregational effort, beginning with 60 participating in three breakout groups in January, where common priorities began to emerge out of many diverse ideas. The group of 13 who attempted to synthesize all of the group conclusions in February & March, also brought differing perspectives to the second step in the process. Everyone acknowledged it was hard work, but clarity and unity grew. The substance of the final draft emerged in the third meeting, which I missed due to an emergency. (Feel free to connect the dots!) Several independent sources reported excitement in the zoom room that night, and awareness of the Spirit's presence. This draft was shortened to a more appropriate length, in a fourth meeting. If you participated in January group, we believe you will see priorities in this proposal which you discussed there. If something very important to you is missing, it's likely because that will continue without needing congregation wide effort. On March 28, we'll focus on asking and answering clarification questions, and begin the discussion. On April 11, discussion will continue, and if we are ready, action will take place. Please continue for the Spirit's presence among us, to lead us to unity and commitment for these new priorities. - Gary Martin

## Easter Breakfast Exchange

Easter Breakfast at MCN has traditionally been a time to fellowship and share a meal with others before the service on Easter Sunday. Even though we can't be physically together this year, the tradition continues! The Fellowship Committee is hosting an Easter Breakfast Exchange. Individuals or families will sign up to either exchange a breakfast casserole or pastry with another individual or family. This will provide you the opportunity to cook for other church members and maybe share a favorite recipe. Additionally, in the midst of the exchange you will be able to connect with others and potentially see a friend face-to-face from a safe distance! What a great way to "raise" spirits as the temperature "rises" and we remember the "rising" of Jesus! If interested in fellowshiping in this way, click on [this link](#) to sign up. Deadline to sign up is **THIS FRIDAY**. Fellowship Committee will match people and you will be responsible to work out the details on time and place of exchange for what works with you!





## Youth Group to Host Variety Show

The Youth Group will be hosting a Variety Show to generate funds for the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. We need your help! Do you have a way you express yourself you can share? We are looking for acts - read a poem, play an instrument, do a dance, tell a joke, do a charade, sing a song, tell a personal story, stand on your head. The options are endless. Please consider adding a recorded entry for our show! Email entries or questions to Lauren Satchwell at [satchwell.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com) . The deadline has been extended by one week to March 28.

## Opportunity for Virtual Fellowship after Easter Service

We are offering a time to connect with other MCN households after the Easter service! We did this at Christmas and enjoyed visiting with folks! If you'd like to participate, just stay on the Zoom link after the service and you'll be put into a group of 5-6 households for 20 minutes of chatting, then regrouped for another 20 minutes. Include the kids!

## Food Drive Success!

The Fellowship and Outreach Committees collected \$275 and supplies at the MCN for the Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. These are photos of the supplies with Marge Weaver and Dorothy Zehr loading them up. Thanks for your contribution. We will keep you posted as to when we will do this again!



## Easter Themed Sunday School Opportunity!

Calling all kids up to 5th grade!!!! Please join us again on Zoom this Sunday, March 28 at 4 pm for a little Sunday School class about Easter!" We will be delivering another little packet of Easter fun to save for the Zoom class to your house. If you did not receive one last time for some reason, please email Carrie Stalter at [carrief@hotmail.com](mailto:carrief@hotmail.com) and we can figure out what went wrong! Hope to see you then.



### 6 apple pie fillings available...

6 apple pie fillings (frozen) are available for a donations. Phone (309-452-5994) or email [ldhersh@ilstu.edu](mailto:ldhersh@ilstu.edu)) and Lotus will set some out on the bench. Suggested donation is \$5 each (or more, of course). You can write a check (separate please) to MCN with Relief Sale in the memo line.

## Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale 2021

The Mennonite Relief Sale Auction is now closed. Payment will be due when you pick up the items on March 27 (8 a.m.-noon). Questions call or email Louise Reeser. 309-826-3423 [reeserfarms@gmail.com](mailto:reeserfarms@gmail.com)





## MCN Comforter Collaboration:

Dear friends,

Would you be interested in participating in the making of a comforter to donate to MCC? No quilting experience is required, and families with children are welcome!

Since making a full comforter is a big project for any one person, the Fellowship Committee would like to propose creating one or more together. Each participant would contribute one (or more!) 12x12-

inch square(s), and these blocks would then be assembled by one (or a few) volunteer(s). By each contributing one small piece of this project, we can safely reconnect around a common purpose and share hope and comfort with a family in need. If interested in contributing a square and/or assembling, please e-mail [jbponnou@yahoo.com](mailto:jbponnou@yahoo.com) or more information on MCC's guidelines, preferred colors, etc. Thank you. The Fellowship Committee.

WINNER OF THE  
2021 DIVERSE VOICES  
PLAYWRITING INITIATIVE

## *The DePriest Incident*

by Charles White

March 25 (Thursday)

6:15 p.m.

Conversation with the playwright

7:00 p.m.

Staged reading



RSVP for free using the link below

## Staged Reading Over Zoom

Tomorrow night is The Crossroads Project's virtual staged reading of Charles White's *The DePriest Incident*! Don't miss the chance to experience this captivating new play about race and national politics in the 1920s—all revolving around a tea party at the White House. The staged reading will be directed by Master's in Theatre Studies candidate Demitri Corbin and performed by a stellar cast of local and professional actors. Click [here](#) to reserve your ticket. Click [here](#) to read more information about the play and playwright.

## **Birthdays**

3/25 Robert Kauffman  
3/27 Meghan Reha  
3/27 Jeff Reiman  
3/28 Gail Fisher  
3/28 Sophia Hubbs  
3/29 Aaron Petri  
3/29 Steve Stenger



## **Anniversary**

3/26 Joe & Mary Jantze (49 years)

## **This week at MCN (All via Zoom)**

### **Thursday**

6:30 a.m. Next Man Bible Study

### **Saturday**

9:30 a.m. Worship Rehearsal

### **Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Congregational Vision Meeting

### **Monday**

5:30 p.m. Structure Evaluation Task Group

### **Tuesday**

5:00 p.m. Peace & Justice Committee



## **Staff Contact Info**

**Virtual Office Hours M-F 9:30 to 3:00**

**Deadline for Midweek items is noon Wednesday**

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 and Devon Tracy, Office Managers; [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.

## **Our Members in Care Facilities**

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

Alice Swift  
Luther Oaks Apt. 2201  
601 Lutz Road  
Bloomington, IL 61704

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

Jo Ropp  
McLean County Nursing Home, Apt 328  
901 N Main St.  
Normal, IL 61761

Deborah Spacek  
Evergreen Village, Apt 292  
1701 Evergreen Ln.  
Normal, IL 61761

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

Ken Shoemaker  
Sugar Creek Alzheimer's Special Care Unit  
505 E Vernon Ave.  
Normal, IL 61761

## **Please contact the Pastoral Council**

**with your financial, emotional or spiritual needs!**

Melika Hersberger, Chair, (309) 888-6241

or [mfkhersh@gmail.com](mailto:mfkhersh@gmail.com)

Connie Satchwell (309) 287-6124

or [cssatch@hotmail.com](mailto:cssatch@hotmail.com)

Steve Stenger (309) 825-2464 or [ststeng@gmail.com](mailto:ststeng@gmail.com)

Keith Unzicker (309) 369-5008 or [keithunzicker@gmail.com](mailto:keithunzicker@gmail.com)

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor (574) 238-5475 or [gmartin5@comcast.net](mailto:gmartin5@comcast.net)

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation (309) 212 -2456 or [rjroppbarn@gmail.com](mailto:rjroppbarn@gmail.com)



## **Mid-Year Gathering**

The Board of Directors of the Central District Conference will host two gatherings via Zoom instead of the annual Regional Gatherings. The final meeting will be held March 27, 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. Eastern time. [Register here for the March 27 meeting.](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For a schedule [click here.](#) There will be breakout sessions on a variety of anti-racism themes, along with stories from three congregations about their creative Christian Education efforts during the pandemic.

## **Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center is calling your name!**

Join Menno Haven staff on Saturday, April 24 from 8-4 (or part of the day) for the Spring Work Day. Volunteer, meet others that love the camp and enjoy a meal! Work and meals can be indoors (masked) or outdoors. For more information contact Marge Weaver or sign up at [mennohaven.com/work-day](http://mennohaven.com/work-day). See you there!

## **Voice of the Day**

Humility, That low sweet root, from which all heavenly virtues shoot. -Thomas Moore

## **Today's Chuckle**

I'd grow my own food if only I could find bacon seeds!