



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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

The Midweek

The Friday Update

Mennonite Church of Normal

March 5, 2021

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

Lent 2021: Deep calls to Deep

"Deep in the changing sky: Called to deep wisdom" is our theme for the Third Sunday in Lent. In the patterns and glory of God's creation, and in God's commandments and promises, we are called to obtain deep wisdom. We will revisit The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), which begin, "Then God spoke all these words..." Christians omit v. 2, and begin numbering the commandments at v. 3. Gary Martin's sermon, *Ten Words (not nine)*, will focus on what Jews consider to be God's First Word (v. 2), and why it is crucial in understanding the remaining nine Words. In both the Exodus text, and 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, we see God's deep wisdom which undermines our assumptions, and takes us deeper than our efforts can lead us. This service was planned by Elsa Raab, and will be led by Shannon Neely.

After Worship Options

There are three after worship options: Standard Lesson with Darrel Miller (stay on worship link), Fellowship led by Lynn Reha (see invite below) and Lenten Sharing: **How is God calling me to deep wisdom?** (see invite below).

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.

Questions for reflection: How is God calling you to deep wisdom? What area of your life needs God's wisdom? (corrected from Wednesday)

Lent Schedule: *Deep calls to Deep*

March 7	Deep in the changing sky: Called to deep wisdom	Gary Martin
March 14	Deep in the wilderness: Called to deep healing	Joe Culpepper
March 21	Deep in the earth: Called to deep growth	Melika Hershberger
March 28	Deep in the current: Called to deep hope	Holly Zehr
Easter, April 4	Deep in the feast: Called to deep living	Gary Martin

Transition Process Update

The Vision Statement committee has met three times, and is making good progress in this challenging task of discerning a clear and compelling statement based on the work of the congregation in January vision groups. They meet again on March 11 and 16.

The Structure Evaluation Task Group meets next on March 15. Please support the discernment work of both groups, in your prayers.

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](#).



A new small group A new small group focused on discerning passion, spiritual gifts, and callings will begin when enough express interest. The group will begin by sharing life stories, and then focus on helping each other discern gifts. It will meet on zoom, for 6-8 sessions, unless other options become available. The schedule will be determined by those who participate. It's ok to join if you have already participated in one of the new small groups this past year. If interested, please contact Melika Hershberger, at mfkhersh@gmail.com or 309 888 6241.

Lynn Reha shares from her experiences: *Small groups have changed my life. I have found them to be a vital part of the way in which I feel God's love. I am so glad that small group opportunities are being offered by MCN. A small group focused on spiritual gifts has recently been helpful for me in finding a renewed ener-*

This week at MCN (All via Zoom)

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Worship Rehearsal

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Three after worship options

Monday

4:30 p.m. Financial Stewardship

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Church Board

Thursday

6:30 a.m. Next Man Bible Study

5 p.m. Outreach Committee

6 p.m. Vision Statement Group

