

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Believing is our focus on the Second Sunday of Easter. In John 20:19-31, the Disciples are behind locked doors, fearing for their lives on Easter evening. They struggled to believe Mary's eye-witness testimony: "I have seen the Lord." They needed evidence. Jesus suddenly appeared, with the evidence: his scars. In his sermon, "Believing with Hope and Resilience," David Boshart, President of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (Elkhart, IN), invites us to believe that as we interact in the world, we are the evidence of Jesus' resurrection. Gary Martin has planned, and will lead this service.

AFTER WORSHIP:

There will be a Congregational Conversation about the proposed Vision Statement. Click [HERE](#) for a copy, and additional background information. Also note today's Milepost below, which summarizes the responses from breakout rooms on March 28. If we are ready, action will be taken at the end of the session, via an online response. Future Conversations on Structure: April 25, May 2, 9, 16 & 23.

LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL 18:

WORSHIP: LUKE 24:36-38—FOCUS ON VISION GOAL #3:
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE COMMUNITY

AFTER-WORSHIP : VOICES TOGETHER INTRODUCTION, PART 3

IMPORTANT DATES:

Worship
Sunday, 9:30 am

Comforter
Creation Sign Up
deadline April
18th, contact
jbponnou@yahoo.com

Midwest Food
Bank
Volunteering:
TONIGHT 5-7

Blood Drive at
Insterstate Center
April 24th



That was the question we started with back in January. I think it has been answered clearly in the proposed Vision Statement:

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 essence of the vision is in these three goals. They are essentially about being. "By 2024, MCN will be a congregation, a dynamic faith community, an active faith community.... The objectives sound like a lot of doing, but they will lead to a more centered focus on being. The goals call us to go deeper in our love for God, each other, and neighbor.

Breakout group reports on March 28, included these one-word responses to the entire statement: ambitious, well worded, active, attainable, exciting, good, comprehensive, well done, great, grateful, outward focus, enthusiastic, and remarkable. The straw poll results from six groups which reported: 45% affirm with excitement; 50% affirm; 5% need more time.

A common concern expressed was, "There's nothing in the statement about _____. Does that mean _____ won't happen anymore?" A vision statement names a few priorities which will shape all of congregational life. It is not intended to be a list of all the things we do. MCN's significant involvement in the Relief Sale, will continue as it has! But as we do, perhaps we'll find a way to go deeper in understanding why the relief needs are so overwhelming in our nation and world, how we can change our lifestyles or advocacy efforts, and in developing mutual relationships with those we serve. MCN will continue to worship, but with greater attention given to all three goal areas.

Potential structure revisions, will result in more individuals with experience and vision for going deeper in one of the three goal areas, being on a team charged with overseeing the goal they are passionate about.

Affirming the Vision Statement, simply means saying yes to this congregational direction (the three goals), for the next three years. We don't know what we'll encounter along the way which may reshape some of the objectives. But as Mary told the Disciples on Easter morning, we know that "Jesus is going before us."

-Gary Martin

Thanks,

FROM THE MENNONITE RELIEF SALE

The Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale would like to Thank the MCN for allowing us to host our online auction in the church. It was a central location for everyone and the facilities were good for our photo shoot. We were able to leave the items in the church, until they sold in the auction, which took place last week. We have a total from the sale of \$31,000. Quilts were the major part of the auction, but we had other items too.

MCN provided 10 large quilts, which doubled in value, in the sale. There were also smaller quilts provided by our members, and 30 quilted pieces from the Quilt Guild that meets in our church. There were about 15 Quilt Challenges. We are very thankful for the response of everyone. We had bidders from many states outside Illinois, such as Florida, Vermont, and California to name a few.

Thanks to our members Gerry Schrock and Ben Roeschley, Louise and Larry Reeser who gave many hours to this project. Thanks to Bryan and Mannie Oyer for help with setup and sale item distribution, along with Marcia Rossi.

We hope to schedule some other fund raisers outside, when the weather allows. Let us know your ideas. We hope next year to be able to host an in person sale, but we will need to wait and decide that in 2022

Louise Reeser
Board Member

Want an invite to workship?

E-MAIL US AT
CHURCH@NORMALMENNONITE.ORG
FOR A ZOOM INVITE!

Blood Drive

AT THE INTERSTATE CENTER

MCN Sponsored Blood Drive!

When: April 24th 8:00AM to 12:00PM

Where: The Interstate Center West
Expo Building
Interstate Center, Bloomington, IL

Please sign up online [HERE](#):

Important Information:

Please note the blood drive will not be held at the church building this time. The Red Cross is providing COVID-19 antibody testing when you donate blood. Special promotion for youth. Individuals between 16-24 years of age will receive a \$10 gift card for donating!

If you need help signing up or have any questions, please contact :
Leah Roeschley @ 1-815-419-7193

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 mfkherh@gmail.com](mailto:mfkhersh@gmail.com) Is God calling you to participate in MCN's vision by being part of a new small group? [Please express you interest by April 21.](#)

"THIS WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN A SMALL GROUP, AND IT WAS A POSITIVE ONE. THE SETTING PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR GETTING TO KNOW OTHERS, AFFIRM THEM AND BE AFFIRMED, AS WELL AS GUIDED SELF-REFLECTION, AND INSIGHTS FOR GOING FORWARD IN LIFE." -ELFRIEDE MASSIER

Mennohaven

CAMPS AND RETREATS

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 [HERE](#).
See you there!

Women's Retreat

AT MENNOHAVEN

Join us May 14-15 at Menno Haven's Women's Retreat!

Our theme is Plant, Bloom, Love and we will be led through John 15:1-17, as well as relaxing and fellowshiping with others!

You can find more information and register [HERE](#).

We'd love to see you here!

Prayer Requests

MCN IS ASKED TO BE IN CONTINUED PRAYER FOR FOR THE CRITICAL CARE UNIT
OF CARLE BROMENN MEDICAL CENTER—OUR PARTNER IN HEALING FOR 2021.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

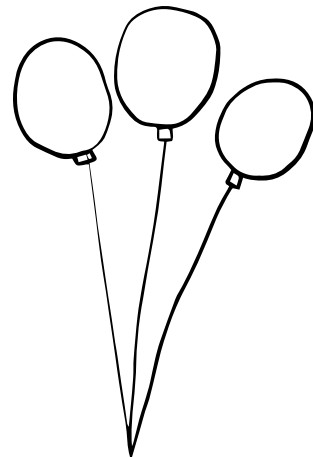
AT MCN

Happy Birthday!

Joe Haney 04/08
Nathan Valverde 04/10
Lauren Satchwell 04/11
William Sila 04/11
Elfriede Massier 04/12
Lydia Hedberg 04/13
Doris Shoemaker 04/13
Mary Engel 04/14
Caeli Haab 04/14

Happy Anniversary!

Grant & Dorothy Zehr 04/26



Staff Contact & Office Hours

OFFICE HOURS M-F 9:30-2:30

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, gmartin5@comcast.net

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.

Devon Rae Tracy, 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

Our members in care facilities

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS,
SEND A CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!

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

Mennonite Church USA Convention

JULY 6-10, CINCINNATI OHIO

You can travel to Cincinnati, or participate on-line for a number of the sessions. Please contact Cindy Ropp, with your plans to participate in-person, or online, and if you are interested in serving as a delegate. The Delegate Assembly will be virtual, on July 10, 1:00-3:30pm, EDT. The Delegate Assembly is your opportunity to not only speak to the establishment of general policies and the development of programs to carry out those policies, but it is also an opportunity for you to connect with and listen to the various members in our great and diverse denomination. For more information click [here](#).

This Week at MCN

ALL VIA ZOOM

Thursday:

6:30 a.m. Next Man Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Vision Statement Continued

Monday:

7:00 p.m. Financial Stewardship
Committee Meeting

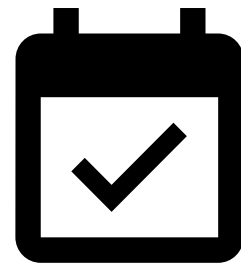
Tuesday:

5:30 p.m. Board Meeting

Bench Items

AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP OUTSIDE ON BENCHES

- 1.CDC District Reporter
- 2.Everence Toolkit
- 3.May/June Upper Room



Today's Chuckle

I KEEP TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT,
BUT IT KEEPS FINDING ME!

Voice of the Day

THERE IS NOTHING PERMANENT,
EXCEPT CHANGE
HERACLITUS