

THE MIDWEEK Update



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

We celebrate Jesus' Ascension by reflecting on a story which illustrates what can happen when God's people are empowered by God's Spirit—the point Jesus made just before ascending. Many Christians see the David & Goliath story (1 Samuel 17) as a “children’s story.” Many Mennonites just avoid it because of the violence. In doing so, we miss an important point the text makes before the violence: *The Lord always wins the battle*. God often wins the battle and saves a community, through an individual who steps up, when everyone else is frozen in fear. What five things did David bring, in addition to bread and cheese, to enable God to win this battle? Do we have access to the same five? What giants might fall, if we bring our “A” game, like David did? Gary Martin is planning this service.

AFTER WORSHIP:

The Structure Evaluation Task Group, will respond to the questions and concerns raised in breakout groups last Sunday. If you have not read the structure related documents, please do so before this Sunday’s meeting. Six documents are available at [this link](#). An audio recording of Wednesday night’s Q &A, with reps from College Mennonite and Shalom Mennonite Churches is available at [this link](#). If we are ready, action will be taken via an online survey, which will be open May 16 – 19.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Worship
Sunday, 9:30 am

THIS weekend:
Outdoor Fellowship
Opportunity

May 16, 2021
Resume Worship
Survey Deadline

May 23rd,
Graduation
Celebration

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR LAST WEEKS MUSIC AND UPCOMING WORSHIP MATERIALS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE

Projected Transition

TIMETABLE

Sunday, May 16: 10:30 a.m.

Continued Structure Proposal Discussion. If ready, action via online survey, through May 19

Friday, May 20: Results announced via e-mail,

Sunday, May 23: If approved, instructions for selecting Board members, after Worship

Worship

ON ZOOM

Please E-mail us at
Church@normalmennonite.org for a worship invite! All are welcome!

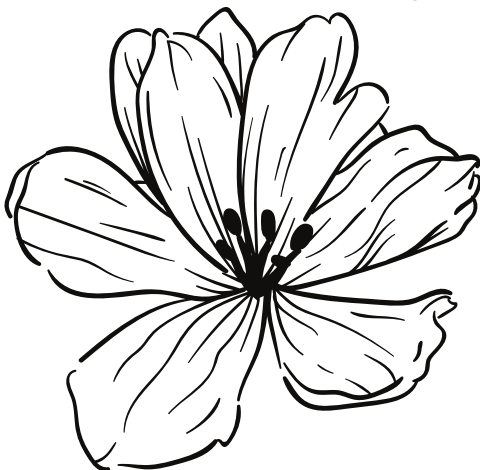
Return to Worship Survey

DUE MAY 16, 2021

We'd love to hear your thoughts on resuming in person fellowship and returning to worship please take the time to fill out the survey linked [HERE](#).

No Friday Update

FIRDAY MAY, 28



This Week on Zoom

AT MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORMAL

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Proposed Structure Revisions Discussion

12:00p.m. Child Protection Meeting

Tuesday:

5:30p.m. Church Board Meeting

Wednesday:

5:30 Resume Worship Task Group

6:30 Pastoral Council

Thursday:

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study

Outdoor Fellowship Events

AT MCN

MCN is excited to offer opportunities for congregants to fellowship outdoors this summer! As per CDC recommendations, vaccinated folks may attend small outdoor events without masks while still honoring social distancing, those who are unvaccinated should still wear a mask when attending indoor or outdoor activities. MCN has been doing its best to adhere to the recommendations of the CDC. As events are shared in The Midweek, we will continue to update changing guidelines as the information becomes available!

Graduation Celebration

MAY 23RD-CHURCH LAWN

It's time to have some fun together! Join us for a time of celebration! Celebrating our seniors, celebrating springtime May 23rd from 3:30-5:00. Lawn games and individually packaged refreshments will be available! Bring a lawn chair and stay awhile!

Current Covid Statistics

IN ORDER TO KEEP THE CONGREGATION AWARE OF WHERE WE STAND IN RELATION TO RE-OPENING THE CHURCH BUILDING, THE WELCOME HOME TASK GROUP WILL FREQUENTLY POST CURRENT STATISTICS FOR MCLEAN COUNTY.

From The Pantagraph Friday, May 14 – McLean County Health Department reported 17 new cases of COVID -19 Thursday. Local hospitals reported 28 COVID -19 patients in their care as of Thursday morning. Total hospital bed availability was at 86% capacity, with ICU bed capacity of 92% filled. Around 35.6% of the county's population is considered fully vaccinated.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention eased mask – wearing for fully vaccinated people on Thursday, allowing them to stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings. The guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings like buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, but it will clear the way for reopening workplaces, schools and other venues – even removing the need for social distancing for those who are fully vaccinated.

New Office Hours

BEGINNING JUNE FIRST

Beginning June first, office hours will be changing, while the building is still closed, if there is something you need to do in or grab from the building please contact the office e-mail in advance to set up a time to do so. Office Hours will also be posted on Office Door.

New Office Hours will be:

Monday thru Thursday: 11:30 a.m.-4:30p.m.

Friday: 12:30-5:30

Sunday: 9:00am to 2:00pm

***Friday's Hours will be worked remotely and the physical office will not be open.**

Staff Contact & Office Hours

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

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, 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. 309- 452- 8534

Devon Rae Tracy, Office Manager; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622 will forward to the new church cell phone 217.255.2119.