

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

The Apostle Paul instructs Jesus' followers about the faith community in Colossians 3:12-17: *Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together (v. 14).*

Gratitude emerges as a common theme as he describes the community tied together with love. Gary Martin's sermon, *Five notes from thankful hearts*, is a practical call to express gratitude at MCN. He is also planning and leading this service.

Those watching the livestream, will hear music, instead of the sharing and prayer time. Please e-mail your joys and concerns to the church office by Friday, 3pm, to be included in the Sunday prayer. Sharing items are summarized in the following Midweek. As with many things as we find our way forward this Summer, this approach may not be long term.

Looking Ahead:

Looking ahead to June 27: "Two worship services," Nehemiah 8:1-8; Luke 4:16-30.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR MEETING,ZOOM, AND OTHER RECORDINGS

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Worship
Sunday, 9:30 am

OFFICE CLOSED:
June 17 & June 22
Church Voicemail
and E-mail will be
checked!



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Projected Structure Implementation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June 23 :

Two Spiritual Gift Discernment
Team members

July 11:

Vision Team Chair and Vice-Chair

July 18:

Pastoral Team Search Committee

August 1:

Commission members (most)

This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE
CHURCH CALENDAR:
THE FULL CHURCH
CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE
AT NORMAL
MENNONITE.ORG

Thursday:

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study

6:30 pm Pastoral Council

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Worship

Monday:

4:00pm Worship Committee

Tuesday:

5:00p.m. Peace & Justice
Committee

Wednesday:

9:30 a.m. Men's Bible
Discussion

Please click [HERE](#) for detailed
instructions about the livestream
option.

Please click on the link below to
connect to the worship livestream
directly :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQdxexzd60K3Y8iLZlaA6Yg>

Both in person worship and live
stream worship are available for
congregants to attend each Sunday at
9:30. Please see further details about
in person gathering expectations on
Page 4. All doors will be open on
Sunday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Odie Evans	06/18
Lois Jett	06/18
Melika Hershberger	06/19
Ryan Miller	06/19
Heath Brandon	06/20
Spring Neely	06/20
Wilber Bauman	06/21
Helen Brandom	06/21

Melika & Ross Hershberger	06/20
Al & Pam Dick	06/21
Phil & Shari Stalter	06/21



Milepost 63

A NEW THING SPRINGS FORTH

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18-19

To paraphrase Ecclesiastes 3: *There is a time to remember, and a time to forget.* Remembering past successes, is good—it increases our faith, and brings confidence. And we can learn from remembering past failures. But there is also a time to forget the past. This is such a season at MCN.

Remember past successes can prevent us from perceiving the new thing the Spirit is doing among us, because we assume that similar efforts will continue to work. Remembering past failures, can prompt the popular refrain: “We tried that and it didn’t work.” Former successes and failures alike, tend to accumulate baggage which gets in the way perceiving the new things of the Spirit.

The Spirit is doing new things at MCN. Do we perceive the Spirit at work?

- The congregation united behind a common vision, and a new way of being church together, in a reasonable amount of time.
- An individual has responded to a call to pastoral ministry.
- The congregation called three individuals to serve in an uncharted assignment (Vision Team), and they said “yes.”
- Five individuals, not having worked together much in the past, came together Monday night to discern two Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (SGDT) members. Because the Spirit put this group together, because each prayerfully prepared, and because the congregation was praying, two candidates emerged quickly with unanimous support.
- Healing and hope is flowing because the Spirit has called individuals into new small groups.
- Unrecognized or under-utilized spiritual gifts are surfacing, to build up the body.

All of these new things the Spirit is doing, are showing us a way forward in the wilderness, and providing rivers in the desert in these uncharted times ahead. And these are just what I perceive from my vantage point. I know there’s much more. What new things of the Spirit, are you seeing? Share such good news with others.

-Gary Martin

Got Spare Room?

A REQUEST FOR A LIVING SPACE

Financial Stewardship Committee

UPDATE ON MCN FINANCES FROM FSC

Spending Plan Status:

May Income: \$28,920.86

May Expenses: \$28,699.25

For May: Income – Expenses =
\$221.61

Status at the end of May

Total income: \$144,865.32

Total expenses: \$144,286.30

Total income -expenses = \$579.02

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER 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 Health, Apt 111
700 E. Walnut St.
Bloomington, IL. 61701

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

Margaret Hopkins
Sugar Creek Alzheimer's Unit

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

A new Small Group...

...with a focus on spiritual gift discernment, will begin when at least five have expressed interest. It will likely be completed in 7-8 sessions, and may be in-person or on zoom (or combination), depending on desires of those who sign up. If interested, contact Gary Martin as soon as possible. Participation in these short-term groups, is important for successful implementation of the structure revisions.

Memorial Service

FOR THE ASHES OF PAUL ROPP

Sharing Joys & Concerns

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

Outreach Committee Update

Food Drive – Since MCN is going back to in person services, the Outreach and Fellowship Committees plan to revive the Widow's Cruse as our method of collecting food to deliver to the Mount Pisgah Food Pantry. Please place donations in the grocery cart by the front door. If you prefer to contribute financially, please make a check payable to the Mount Pisgah Food Pantry and give to Marge Weaver, Fellowship Chair or me, Outreach Chair. The types of food and supplies that are in demand are Canned Vegetables, Boxed Mac n Cheese, Boxed Mashed Potatoes, Boxed Skillet Meals (such as Hamburger Helper), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tissue & Paper Towels. Please let me know if you are available to deliver the food/supplies from MCN to the Mount Pisgah Church.

BN Welcoming - The Outreach Committee continues to work with BN Welcoming to authorize payments from a separate account to pay utility/rent expenses for immigrant families. This is an account that is separate from the Outreach Committee budget to which people both at MCN and outside MCN are asked to contribute. You may use the MCN website by clicking the PAYPAL button on the BN Welcoming tab, or by sending a check to MCN payable to BN Welcoming -MCN. For example, last week \$62.43 was paid to the City of Bloomington for a water bill, \$46.17 was paid to Nicor Gas, and \$45.12 was paid to Ameren Illinois for a local immigrant family from the BN Welcoming account.

Hungry World Farm - The Outreach Committee contributed \$250 to Hungry World Farm to help it receive electronic SNAP payments, and thus provide healthy, local produce to under resourced folks in Tiskilwa and at the Farmer's Market in nearby Princeton. This was done at the request of Lynn Reha and Andy Hedberg who are on its board.

Peaceful Practices is an adult Sunday School curriculum that the Outreach and Peace & Justice Committees are proposing to offer in the Fall. The MCC program is designed to help individuals and congregations reflect on and practice how they engage with interpersonal conflict. Throughout the study, the reader will be introduced to (or refamiliarized with) tools that help them dialogue effectively. Jess Stoltzfus Buller, Peace Education Coordinator for MCC, indicated that she would work with us in remote sessions when I asked if she would do that. Jess indicated that the curriculum is scheduled to be released in July.

In Peace, Phil Dick for the MCN Outreach Committee



Welcome Home Task Group

IN PERSON WORSHIP EXPECTATIONS UPDATE

The Welcome Home Task Group has considered all the recent changes in Covid-19 guidelines from the State of Illinois and the CDC.

As of July 1, 2021, the following changes will be implemented at Mennonite Church of Normal.

- If you are vaccinated, you are free to not wear a mask in the building.
- If you are not vaccinated, please wear a mask in the building.
- We will continue to socially distance indoors to accommodate those who are unvaccinated or hesitant.

The Task Group will continue to monitor local conditions to ensure that we remain in compliance with State of Illinois guidelines. In the event there would be a significant change in our status locally, the Task Group will communicate any changes in practice that are needed.

As of July 1, outside groups who rent space in the building will be free to resume meeting in our building.

Watch for updates on childcare, Fellowship time, and Christian Education for all ages!



Admin Resignation

FROM THE BOARD:

Devon Tracy has tendered her resignation as Administrative Assistant effective July 2. The Board expresses their deep appreciation for the good work she completed with us. Your gifts are many and we have been blessed.

Information regarding future staffing of this position will be forthcoming.

A NOTE FROM DEVON:

Dear MCN,

When I took the position in the office of MCN, my sister with special needs had been residing with us for 5 months after being placed with us in a moment of crisis. When I began working at MCN, she began a local day program for adults with special needs. It was our hope that placement in a day program might help remedy some of her more difficult behaviors at home.

Unfortunately, she has still struggled to feel at ease in our home and I feel it necessary to return to our home full time to ensure that it is a safe, healthy and harmonious place for all who reside within. It has been a privilege to be in the office and to serve our congregation for the past few months. I ask for your prayers as we navigate the journey ahead for Logan and our family.

Warmly,

Devon Tracy

Staff Contact & Office Hours

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

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, gmartin5@comcast.net, In Normal: June 17-21, 25-28, July 3-4, 9-14

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation is providing pastoral care for those who are ill or hospitalized. 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.

Bryan Oyer, custodian

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader; satchwell.lauren@gmail.com