

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

We celebrate our first in-person Communion since the pandemic began! Careful preparations are being made to enable this service to be meaningful and safe. Joe Culpepper is planning and leading the service.

Pastor Gary's sermon, *Let go, and let God*, will consider our tendency to hold tightly the things which are precious to us. Jochebed (Exodus 1 & 2), exemplified faith, as she put her infant son (Moses) into a basket to float in the Nile River. Faith is trusting that God will do more than we can imagine, when we relax our grip on things we hold tightly. In addition to material possessions, this can apply to beliefs, opinions, plans, dreams, things "we know," relationships and even past hurts.

LOOKING AHEAD:

ON JULY 18, WE WILL CELEBRATE AND DEDICATE VOICES TOGETHER, OUR NEW HYMNAL. DENISE HEDBERG WILL HAVE A MEDITATION. WAYNE HOCHSTETLER IS PLANNING THE SERVICE.

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

Worship
Sunday, 9:30 am

After Worship
Session:

Rethinking Small
Groups

Outdoor
Fellowship

Sunday, July 18th at the
Satchwell's



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

After Worship

IN JULY

These sessions are designed to help us better understand the new structure: why the changes are needed, what to expect, and how you can participate in helpful ways. Sessions will include structured input and informal conversation. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate on Zoom [at this link](#).

Sessions will be recorded.

This Sunday, we'll consider how Jesus started and led his small group, the twelve disciples. Traditional small groups tend to do everything the opposite of Jesus' example.

July 11 Rethinking small groups

July 18 MCN testimonies: spiritual gift discernment and small groups

July 25 Mennonite Congregational Structures and Pastoral Roles: a historical overview

This Week at MCN

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE
CHURCH CALENDAR:
THE FULL CHURCH
CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE
AT

NORMALMENNONITE.ORG

Thursday:

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study

5:00 pm Outreach Committee

Sunday:

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Rethinking small groups

Tuesday:

5:30 pm Church board meeting

Wednesday:

6:30 pm Pastoral council

Worship

VIA LIVESTREAM AND IN PERSON

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

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>

Serving this Sunday

AT MCN

Those Serving July 11

South Greeters: Doug and Jenell Ulrich

West Greeter: Marcia Rossi

Welcome Table: Mary Dyck

Ushers: Jon and Janelle Freisen

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Milepost 84

THE CHURCH CRACKED OPEN AND CURIOUS

"God is doing new things, Jesus proclaimed, but only those with new minds and hearts can see a new world breaking through the cracks of the old." -Ilia Delio, *The Hours of the Universe*

Episcopal priest Stephanie Spellers, in *The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community*, sees the current challenges faced by the church and society as a way for God to get through to us. "When you see a crack, what's your first instinct? Push the pieces back together and patch it over." But cracks are often a sign of deeper damage. Perhaps we should put away the duct tape, so we can fully experience the unraveling and brokenness. That may be the only way God can get our attention, so we can open ourselves to the new things of the Spirit.

Alan Roxburgh suggests that the Holy Spirit has been nudging and calling Christians "to embrace a new imagination, but the other one had to unravel for us to see it for what it was" in *Joining God, Remaking Church, and Changing the World*. Sellers continues: "A church that has been humbled by disruption and decline may be a less arrogant and presumptuous church. It may have fewer illusions about its own power and centrality. It may become curious.... It may finally admit how much it needs the true power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. That's a church God can work with."

-Gary Martin, with credit to Richard Rohr
for gathering these concepts in his June 3,
meditation.

The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

(SGDT)

The candidates are Lynn Reha and Nancy Fisher. They are willing to serve on SGDT, along with a pastor, and the yet-to-be-named Vice-chair of the Vision Team.

The next step in the process is to allow a few days for the congregation to provide feedback to these appointments. Please email your responses to Barry Weaver, by 6pm, Saturday, July 10.

The two SGDT members were discerned by a temporary committee comprised of the three Vision Team members (Barry Weaver, Ben Roeschley, Shannon Neely), Melika Hershberger (Pastoral Council), and Gary Martin.

The next implementation step: a temporary committee comprised of the two SGDT members, Pastor Gary, and Melika Hershberger, representing Pastoral Council, will discern a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Vision Team. They will also be presented to the congregation for feedback. Once the Chair and Vice-chair are called, the Vision Team is complete. Their first task is to call a Pastoral Team Search Committee.

Please watch each Midweek for updates requesting your feedback.

Serving with Mennonite Disaster Service

WAYNE & LOIS HOCHSTETLER

This note comes as we are getting ready to leave Paradise. We have been here for a month already! The days have passed as pearls on a string, but suddenly the necklace is complete. I will leave you with some impressions of our time here:

-We have met interesting and gifted people who may not have a lot of building experience but are eager to learn. In spite of high heat, we have gotten a lot accomplished and have made friends with the folks we are building for.

-Cooking for a large group is very demanding, and requires long hours, but is also a chance to bake to my heart's content, as I cannot do for Wayne and me. And all my efforts were much appreciated.

-Mennonite Disaster Service is new to this area, but our logo is becoming recognized in Paradise. We are very conscious of the fact that we are ambassadors of the company.

-Very hot weather does not stop hard workers. They just drink more GatorAde and take breaks in the shade.

-It takes a long time to clean up the residue of a fire. Undergrowth comes back first, but many trees will never recover.

-Hope is evident in many aspects of this community, and it is good to be able to augment it. It is most evident in friendships and people relationships.

~Lois Hochstetler

Voices Together Memorials

As we look forward to dedicating our Voices Together hymnals, we as a church wish to recognize those persons for whom some hymnals are memorialized. These hymnals have a memorial page inserted into the front cover page. The following persons have purchased one or more hymnals in memory of these specific persons, in some cases with a specific tribute:

- The Darvis King family in memory of Don and Marge Nestor
- Janet Wilson in memory of Arthur A Hovarth
- David Voegtlin in memory of Paul Voegtlin, "He loved hymns and he loved to sing"
- Larry and Louise Reeser in memory of the following persons:
 - Ken and Maisie Reeser
 - Jake and Lorene Reeser
 - John Stutzman
 - Franzie Loepp
 - Werner Fransen
 - Russ and Laura Oyer
- Barry and Marge Martin Weaver in memory of Harold and Mary Herr Weaver, and Roy and Alice Kropf Martin
- Leah Roeschley "In honor of the ministry of Pastor Jane T. Roeschley, 2000-2019"
- Phil and Laura Dick in memory of Helene Wiens Dick
- Jan Miller in memory of the Chris and Cory Culbertson family
- Connie Reeser-Hall in memory of Kenneth Reeser and Anna Mae "Maisie" Reeser
- Phylis Versteegh in memory of Harold Patton, Helen Patton, Philip Patton, and Lucy Catherin Patton
- Marcia Rossi in memory of D Paul Miller
- Diane Wiman in memory Luella Mishler, "She Loved to Sing!"
- Lynette Miller in memory of Doris Shoemaker
- Julie Musselman in memory of Gerald C Musselman
- Juergen and Meredith Schroeer in memory of Walter and Martha Dyck

~The Voices Together Committee

Fellowship and Fun

Please join us at the home of Rick and Connie Satchwell for an afternoon of fellowship and fun on Sunday, July 18, from 1:00-5:00. We live by a small lake, so if you are interested in kayaking, swimming, floating, or fishing, it is available! We have some pool noodles, floaties, and life jackets, but if you have your own, please bring them. Please also bring lawn chairs. If you prefer fun on the land, we will have some yard games. If sitting and visiting is your thing, we have shade all afternoon! We will provide a cooler with drinks. A bathroom will be available. We are looking forward to a fun afternoon!

Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is working to establish new protocols for the nursery, and Sunday School which will resume September 5th. Anyone who is interested in teaching Sunday School or becoming a prayer partner for one of our Sunday School classes should contact Spring Uphoff Neely.

Volunteer rosters for the nurseries are also being compiled. Any individuals who have volunteered in the past will automatically be included. If you have volunteered in the past and wish for your name to be removed or have not volunteered in the past but wish to do so in the future please contact any member of the CE 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!

Mennonite Church USA Convention,

Convention started Tuesday, and continues through Saturday. The “hybrid” convention takes place in Cincinnati and online. Check the MC USA website for daily reports from MennoCon21: [Home | Mennonite Church USA \(mennoniteusa.org\)](https://www.mennoniteusa.org)

Menno Haven, volunteer and paid positions

Our Camp Menno Haven offers wonderful experiences all year!
Can YOU help make that happen for the campers and visitors this summer? YOU can be youth or adult, paid or volunteer!

Immediate needs:

- a female and a male counselor for July 11-16
- kitchen assistant(s), specifically July 11-16, also July 19-23 and July 26-30

Volunteers for a day or days are welcome also!
Contact Marge Weaver or sheena@mennohaven.com



Update on office changes

The new Administration Commission will oversee hiring long-term office staff, to hopefully begin in September.

Charlotte Hedberg began covering most of Devon's tasks on July 5. She will work remotely through mid-August. Adam Augspurger will pick up accounts payable for the summer. We will announce regular "building open" hours soon.

You can contact the church office as in the past: e-mail church@normalmennonite.org, or call 309-452-6622, and leave a message. Charlotte will check e-mail and phone message throughout weekdays, and at least once a day on Saturday and Sunday. To contact Gary Martin by phone, please call his cell number any time: 574 238 5475. His "Normal" schedule appears in the staff information at the end of each Midweek.

Please advise Charlotte in advance, of all plans to use the building. Outside groups are using the building now, and it is essential for all usage to be on the church calendar. You can see the calendar on the MCN website homepage.

Staff Contact & Office Hours

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, gmartin5@comcast.net , In Normal: July 10-15, 22-26, July 31-Aug. 3; Aug. 7-11

Ron Ropp, Pastor of Visitation is providing pastoral care for those who are ill or hospitalized. 309- 452- 8534

Charlotte Hedberg: Interim Admin Assistant; church@normalmennonite.org or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer, custodian

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