

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

The worship service this Sunday will be a celebration of music in worship. It will include congregational singing, and dedication of the new hymnal, *Voices Together*. Denise Hedberg's message, *Reflections on the Holy Spirit in Glorious Sound*, will consider the role of music in building faith and community, the contribution of a small group at illuminating the spiritual gifts, and the challenges and opportunities to trusting that God will do more than we can imagine alone. Wayne Hochstetler is planning and leading the service, in which many others will assist. For the festive occasion of the dedication of our new hymnals on Sunday, please wear purple if you have it available. Thank you.

THOSE SERVING JULY 18:

South Greeters: Reeser Family

West Greeters: Reeser Family

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Adam Augsberger
Lauren Satchwell

LOOKING AHEAD:

July 25 worship service: Mark 2:18-22--are new and old compatible?

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:

MCN testimonies:
spiritual gift discernment
and small groups

Outdoor Fellowship:
Sunday, July 18th at the
Satchwell's

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, four members will reflect on their experiences in small groups which focused on the discernment of passion, spiritual gifts, personal style, and calling.

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

Wednesday 14th:

6:30pm Pastoral council

Sunday 18th:

9:30am Worship

10:30am After worship session

1:00pm Outdoor Fellowship at the Satchwell's

Monday 19th:

4:00pm Worship Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday 21st:

4:30pm Outreach Committee

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



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 6. 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>

Milepost 91

A THEOLOGY OF ABUNDANCE

Scripture consistently reveals a God of abundance, not scarcity. In the wilderness, God provided manna, and quail, and water for the Children of Israel, in abundance. God provided oil and flour for the widow from Zarephath, in abundance (1 Kings 17). God provides grace and mercy for all, in abundance. Jesus provided wine and bread and fish, in abundance. As Jesus ascended, he promised his disciples his presence, in abundance: *And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age* (Mt. 28:20).

Jesus consistently called his followers to a theology of abundance. His point in the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:11-27): don't be cautious with God's resources. Instead, invest them so they multiply. In Luke's context, the resource to invest, seems to be God's grace—not material resources. He promised his followers in John 14:12: *the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.*

Is our perspective in life, shaped more by a theology of abundance, or a theology of scarcity? If abundance prevails, we will confidently claim God's promise to provide what we need for each day, whether material, emotional or spiritual resources. We will engage in our congregational vision work, with an expectation that the Holy Spirit will work abundantly among us.

If scarcity defines our perspective, we will tend to be cautious and overly protective of what is, and what we have. In Jesus' parable of the pounds, the cautious servant lost what he was trying so hard to protect.

In my experience, the poor, who have only known scarcity, seem to have a better developed theology of abundance, than those of us with ample resources. This is another example of the *mission is mutual* concept: as we provide resources for others, God wants us to be open to receive resources they have, which we lack.

-Gary Martin

Update on MCN Finances

FROM THE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Spending Plan status:

June Income: \$22,725.92

June Expenses: \$27,957.61

For June: Income - Expenses = -\$5,231.69

Status at the end of June

Total income: \$167,616.24

Total expenses: \$172,096.94

Total: income - expenses = -\$4,480.70



Two other notes:

1. In July we have large insurance bills, \$11,000+.
2. In June we received gifts from 19 units electronically and from 28 units by envelope.

Thank you for your continued support of the Spending Plan!

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!

Employment Openings

AT MENNO HAVEN

Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center is seeking applicants for a year-round full-time Food Service Manager and a year-round part-time Housekeeping Manager (with possibilities for full-time). Go to mennohaven.com/employmentopenings for more information. Submit a letter of interest and resume to Doc Johnson at execdir@mennohaven.com.

Alternative Gifts Update

Thanks to your support of the Alternative Gifts Fair, we were able to continue our mission to help those around the world become more self-sufficient. You can see the results of our congregation's hard work [at this link](#).

Shakespeare Festival Jazz Concerts

Free Illinois Shakespeare Festival JAZZ concerts by Glenn Wilson and Friends
Sunday, July 18, Thursday, July 22, and Wednesday, July 28. Ewing Manor Back Patio
- All concerts are 6-7 pm. Bring a chair or blanket. All are invited!

Structure Implementation Update

Barry Weaver, one of three congregationally elected Vision Team members, has accepted a call to serve as Vision Team Chair. His congregationally elected position will be filled by Shelly King, the next in line in the congregational election results. The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (SGDT), is discerning the last Vision Team role: Vice Chair. SGDT is comprised of Lynn Reha, Nancy Fisher, Gary Martin (pastoral representative). Melika Hershberger, as Pastoral Council chair, is serving temporarily on SGDT, until the Vision Team Vice-chair is named, who also serves on SGDT. All individuals discerned by SGDT, are presented to the congregation for feedback, before their appointment is official. When the Vision Team, and Spiritual Gift Discernment Team, are complete, they will be commissioned during a worship service. Please watch for an e-mail message from SGDT in a few days, which invites you to share your interests in serving at MCN, and your recommendations for where others are gifted to serve.

Update on Office Changes

AT MCN

The new Administration Commission will oversee hiring long-term office staff, to hopefully begin in September. Charlotte Hedberg has been covering Devon's tasks since July 5, working remotely through mid-August. Adam Augspurger will pick up accounts payable for the summer. The building will be open Monday-Friday, 2-5pm. It is open additional hours, especially when Gary is in town. You can contact the church office as in the past: email 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 view the calendar on the MCN website homepage.



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!

Staff Contact & Office Hours

Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, , In Normal: July 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.

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

Bryan Oyer, custodian

Lauren Satchwell, Youth Ministry Leader;