

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Disciples of John the Baptist and the Pharisees were fasting. Jesus' disciples were not. The former asked Jesus, "Why aren't your disciples fasting?" (Mark 2:18-22) Gary Martin's sermon, *New and Old*, is about Jesus' response. How do we respond to the new things of the Spirit, when they appear to contradict what we consider sacred? The service is being planned by Elsa Raab, and led by Gail Fisher.

THOSE WHO ARE SERVING JULY 25:

South Greeters: Lotus and Judy Hershberger

West Greeter: Connie Satchwell

Welcome Table: Lynn Reha

Ushers: Deb and Steve Stenger

LOOKING AHEAD:

Looking ahead to August 1:

Jesus proclaims himself as The Bread of Life, in John 6:25-35, saying, the essence of our work is to believe in him. An additional text to read in preparation: 2 Sam. 11:26-12:13a.

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:

Mennonite Congregational
Structures and Pastoral
Roles: a historical overview

Spiritual Gifts
Disernment Team
Survey:

Survey which can be
completed in one of three
different manners due July
25th

After Worship

IN JULY

Mennonite Congregational Structures and Pastoral Role: a historical overview with lessons for today. Our understanding of the role of the pastor, in relationship to the congregation, evolved over the last century. We looked around, like the children of Israel in 1 Samuel 8, and wanted what other denominations had. This session will include structured input and informal conversation, and will be recorded. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate on Zoom. Sessions will be recorded.

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

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/UCQdxexzd60K3Y8iLZ1aA6Yg>

This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday 21st:

4:30pm Outreach committee

Sunday 25th:

9:30am Worship

10:30am After worship session

Tuesday 27th:

4:00pm Peace and Justice Committee

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Milepost 98

MORE THAN WE ASK OR IMAGINE!

To God—whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine--to God be glory in the Church, and in Christ Jesus, through all the generations, world without end! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (The Inclusive Bible)

There was a common theme throughout the sharing of spiritual gift discernment and small groups experiences, last Sunday after worship. "It was more helpful than I expected." Most of us, most of the time, are creatures of habit, with expectations based on previous experiences, not known for vivid imagination or desire for radical transformation. That describes me well.

In this Sunday's gospel reading (Mark 2:18-22), the disciples of John the Baptist and some Pharisees, had little imagination to see anything positive in Jesus' disciples feasting instead of fasting. All they could see was "this contradicts the way things are supposed to be."

Jesus responded in essence: it depends on the situation. There's a time for feasting, and a time for fasting. Embracing something new does not mean what preceded it was wrong.

In referring to the differences between the civil rights era, and today's anti-racism efforts, Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. commented: "Each generation is limited by what it knows." He called the contemporaries of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., like himself, the Moses generation. Those leading the movement today, are the Joshua generation. Current leaders should learn from the wisdom and experiences of the previous generation, but they should not allow the previous generation to define how they lead today.

It's helpful periodically, to reflect with other Christians, on your current calling. It could result in clarity of call beyond what you imagined, as some shared, because the Holy Spirit is involved.

Please contact me, as soon as possible, if you have interest in being part of a new small group. Depending on interest, it might meet in-person, or on Zoom. Like a COVID-19 vaccine, your participation benefits you and others!

-Gary Martin

Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

REQUESTS YOUR INPUT

Do you know someone who's gifts would suit well to serve on a committee? Or perhaps you feel a calling to serve! You can provide your interest in serving on a Commission or in a specific ministry, and your recommendations of others to serve on a Commission, in one of three different formats:

- Click for a form to complete, and e-mail to Lynn Reha
- Click to complete the same form in an online survey
- Complete a paper copy available this Sunday (July 25), at church.

Please complete one of the options by Sunday Noon, July 25.

Thank you for your input!

Structure Implementation Update

The Vision Team is now comprised of *Barry Weaver* (chair), *Shannon Neely*, *Ben Roeschley*, and *Shelly King*. The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (*Lynn Reha*, *Nancy Fisher*, and *Gary Martin*), is discerning the last Vision Team role, Vice-Chair, who will also serve on Spiritual Gift Discernment Team (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.

A Message of Gratitude

July 25 will be Melika Hershberger's last Sunday at MCN for a while. She will be moving to the campus of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS) in Elkhart, IN on July 31.

"I have sensed God's call to pastoral ministry for many years, but have been unable or unwilling to respond. Over the years many of you have pointed out my gifts for ministry, encouraged the use of my gifts or teased me about when I might take seminary classes. I appreciate your affirmation in it's many forms!

During the pandemic of 2020, while our worship was muted and our fellowship greatly curtailed, God's voice through scripture has been louder for me. My times of scripture reading and prayer, my service to this congregation on pastoral council and Children's Education times on Zoom all carried more weight. My participation in a spiritual gifts discernment small group last fall and my front row seat throughout our transition process has helped me to clarify my passion for the church, God's gifting of me and God's patient, persistent call.

I had very tentatively begun to explore seminary study, thinking it quite unlikely, when God very literally blew a hole in the barriers I believed existed. God provided a way, and as a result I will begin full time seminary study at AMBS this fall. A scholarship I have been awarded by AMBS will permit me to live on campus while not requiring that we sell our house here in Normal. I am very grateful to my family for their unflinching support through the beginning of this adventure. I would ask for your continued prayer support and encouragement as I begin my studies. (It's been a long time since I've been in school!) I don't know where God will ultimately lead me, but I view this as the next step and trust that God's faithful presence will guide me every step of the way."

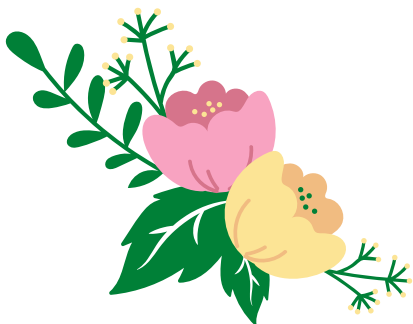
-Melika Hershberger 4

Housing Needed

A single female in her early 50s is seeking clean modest housing to rent (house or apartment) near ISU. Please contact Nancy Fisher if you are aware of such available housing. Thank you!

Shakespeare Festival Jazz Concerts

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



Denominational Resources

Rooted and Grounded: A Conference on Land and Christian Discipleship: Oct. 14-16. This conference on “**Land: Loss, Connection and Imagination**” will be offered in a hybrid format, with some elements available only in person at AMBS in Elkhart, Indiana, and some available via livestream. Keynote speakers: Laura Meitzner Yoder, PhD, and Timothy R. Eberhart, MDiv, PhD. [ams.edu/rootedandgrounded](https://www.ams.edu/rootedandgrounded).

The Mennonite Church USA Women in Leadership’s new Bible-based curriculum, “**Laboring Toward Wholeness: A Training on Dismantling Patriarchy,**” is now available. This curriculum centers the experiences of women of color and challenges the church to live out faith by embracing the gifts that women have to offer. Read more at:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/dismantling-patriarchy>. Watch this webinar featuring the authors, to get started: <https://youtu.be/3zQ!pgOn0pM>.

Stories from Anabaptists around the World

The Mennonite World Conference website has many inspiring stories from our global brothers and sisters--[Stories | Mennonite World Conference \(mwc-cmm.org\)](https://www.mwc-cmm.org/stories)

Year-Round Employment Openings

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.

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

Welcome Home Task Group

IN PERSON WORSHIP EXPECTATIONS

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 uncomfortable.

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.

Our Members in Care Facilities

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS. SEND A
CARD IF THE SPIRIT LEADS YOU!

Staff Contact and Building Open Hours

Building Open: Monday – Friday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Gary Martin: Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, gmartin5@comcast.net , 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.
309- 452- 8534

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

Bryan Oyer: custodian

Lauren Satchwell: Youth Ministry Leader;