

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

Bread has been the basic staple of the human diet for many millennia. In proclaiming “I am the bread of life” in John 6:24-35, Jesus made it clear he is essential for life. In the give and take which followed, the people shifted the topic, as we do today, to ask Jesus what they should do. “Jesus responded with a call to be: “your work is to believe in me.” Additional texts to read in preparation: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, and Psalm 51:1-12. Holly and Randy Zehr are planning this service.

THOSE WHO ARE SERVING AUGUST 1ST:

South Greeters: Meredith and Juergen Schroeer

West Greeter: Julie Musselman

Welcome Table: Marge Weaver

Ushers: Eric and Chellie Miller

Please Click [here](#) for meeting, zoom, and other recordings

Please click [here](#) for upcoming worship materials as they become available

Important Dates:

Worship
Sunday, 9:30 am

After Worship
Session:

Commissions at MCN: a
new role in the structure

After Worship

On August 1, our focus is "Commissions at MCN: a new role in the structure." After brief input which explains how the Commissions will function differently than our existing committees, most of the session will be Q & A conversation. This session will be recorded. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate on Zoom.

August 1st: Commissions at MCN: a new role in the structure

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. 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>

This Week at MCN

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

Thursday 29th:

4:30pm Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

5:00pm Peace and Justice Committee

Sunday 1st:

9:30am Worship

10:30am After worship session

Wednesday 4th:

4:00pm Peace and Justice Committee

7:00pm Vision Team

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Throughout history, when the future was uncertain, or obviously in decline, humans were often willing to embrace authoritarian leadership. In the Prophet Samuel's last years, Israel's future was bleak. The people came to him (1 Samuel 8) saying, "We want a king. That's the only solution to our problems."

Israel in Jesus' day had good reason to be anxious about the future. In John 6, after Jesus fed a crowd of 5,000, with five loaves of bread and two fish, John writes (v.15): *When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.* The King of Kings, refused this populist route to kingship.

Jesus knew the most effective way to lead a movement to usher in God's Reign, was to equip many, so his efforts were multiplied. The role of pastors in Jesus' church, is to equip all believers for ministry (Eph. 4:12), so that ministry grows exponentially.

Like Israel, Mennonites looked at neighboring denominations, and said, "We want what they have—a senior minister with associate ministers. Someone has to be in charge." The hierarchical model makes it difficult to focus on equipping.

The Pastoral Team model in MCN's new structure, has been embraced in many congregations, in recognition of its advantages over a hierarchical model. The Pastoral Team ministry description (available soon), emphasizes the Pastoral Team's priority on equipping. Pastors equip congregants, through a unique combination of gifts: teaching, caring, and leading.

The Pastoral Team Search Committee will search for pastors committed to this equipping focus, applied to the three priorities in MCN's vision to become a faith community that...

- is equipping all to learn about, walk with, and live out the teachings of Jesus in daily life.
- nurtures and nourishes relationships, so that our care and understanding of each other is deepened.
- is developing significant and meaningful relationships through expanding our care for and understanding about/with those beyond MCN.

-Gary Martin



New Small Groups



Please contact Gary Martin as soon as possible if you are interested in a group focused on helping each other discern passion, spiritual gifts, personal style, and calling. It may meet on Zoom, or in-person, depending on the preferences of those who express interest. Will likely meet 7-8 times. Your participation helps MCN accomplish its vision.

Welcome Home Task Group

The Task Group is aware of the rise in COVID-19 cases in McLean County and the new CDC guidelines. Watch for an e-mail message update on protocols for MCN.

Transition Update

The Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team Activities (Lynn Reha, Nancy Fisher, Gary Martin) has

1. Asked Vision Team to call an ad hoc Administrative Assistant Hiring Committee.

Charlotte Hedberg will be ending service in Mid-August. In the future, this will be the responsibility of the Administration Commission.

2. Is celebrating Mary Dyck as Administration Commission Chair.

Mary has agreed to serve. As with every position, it is pending congregational feedback.

Please e-mail your feedback regarding Mary serving in this role to Lynn Reha or Nancy Fisher by August 1.

3. Review congregational naming of people who might be good fit for Commissions.

We will hold these names in prayer as we make invitations.

The Vision Team Activities (Barry Weaver (Chair), Shannon Neely, Ben Roeschley and Shelly King) include

1. Preparing to call Pastoral Team Search Committee

2. Finalizing schedule for Gary Martin's remaining time



Religion, Nature, and Climate Change

MCN has been asked by our friends at the First United Methodist Church of Normal to participate in this [Religion, Nature, and Climate Survey](#). Please help by donating about 5 to 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire. MCN will receive a tally of congregants' thoughts and beliefs regarding religion, nature, and climate change. Providing your name is optional. Thank you!

Welcome Back to Sunday School

AT MCN

The Christian Education Committee is excited to resume Sunday school for kids ages PK-5th grade beginning Sunday, September 12. To help us prepare for students and implement Covid-19 mitigations, please respond to the survey at this link by next **Wednesday, August 4:**

<https://forms.gle/2Do5QyQFVNzz5Gkx7>. In addition, please read the plan below regarding our attempts to mitigate for Covid-19 during Sunday School:

The Christian Education Committee is proposing the following for Covid-19 Mitigation during Sunday School:

1. Wearing of masks by teachers and students
2. Symptomatic children or teachers should not attend.
3. Parents should alert their child's Sunday school teacher if their child tests positive for Covid-19.
4. Sealed snacks will be provided.
5. Children will have an assigned, socially-distanced seat in their classroom.
6. Teachers will be encouraged to teach outside as much as possible, weather permitting.
7. Mask breaks will be allowed only when socially distanced and while outside or eating.
8. Students will be provided with individual beach-sized towels to sit on outside to help define socially-distanced spaces.

If you have questions about these proposals, please contact a member of the current CE Committee: Spring Neely, Courtney Yoder, Carrie Stalter, or Holly Zehr.

Library Books

AT MCN

Many books were checked out prior to the Covid-19 shut down. Please check your bookshelves for books that need to be returned so that others can read them. Please don't make the librarian send you individualized emails. In particular, *Christians True in China* edited by Robert Krueger and *Love is an Orientation* by Andrew Marin are being sought.

Sewing Kits Needed

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC)

MCC urgently needs sewing kits! Our supply of sewing kits has been depleted, and we need your help to fulfill requests from our partners. In many places where MCC works, sewing skills open doors to additional income that can help a family make ends meet. These kits are often given through MCC-supported programs that teach sewing or tailoring and provide the tools to make and mend clothing or to begin a business. For more information, including a list of kit contents, visit mcc.org/kits/sewing.

Completed kits can be dropped off or mailed to the Goshen Material Resources Center at The Depot (1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN 46528) or the Kidron Material Resources Center at MCC Connections (4080 Kidron Rd, Dalton, OH 44618). Contact the MCC Great Lakes office at 574-534-4071 or GreatLakes@mcc.org with questions.

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 Wednesday, July 28. Ewing Manor Back Patio - The concert is from 6-7 pm. Bring a chair or blanket. All are invited!



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 31-Aug. 3; Aug. 7-11; 19-24

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