

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP

**THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.**

In Luke 19:41-44, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because its inhabitants could not see that an embrace of God's Reign, would bring them peace (complete wellbeing). The sermon, *Peace is Patriotic*, calls us to follow Jesus' example of desiring what is best for our nation, which includes a desire for what is best for all nations (Luke 4:16-30). To what extent are our historic attempts to promote peace, in line with Jesus' methods?

### Looking Ahead:

JOCHEBED DEMONSTRATES FAITH, EXODUS 1 & 2. WE WILL CELEBRATE COMMUNION.

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

Upcoming  
Celebration:

July 4th at MCN!

After Worship  
Structure Learning  
Opportunities to  
begin in July!



# After Worship

IN JULY

These four 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, and will be recorded.

**July 4** Biblical foundations for the new structure and pastoral staffing model.

**July 11** Rethinking small groups

**July 18** MCN testimonies: spiritual gift discernment and small groups

**July 25** Mennonite Congregational Structures: a historical overview

## 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** Fellowship Committee

### Friday:

**1:00 pm** Small Group

# 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. 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>

### Sunday:

**9:30 am** Worship

**10:30 am** Biblical Foundations for the new structure and pastoral staffing model

**5:00 pm** MCN Lawn Picnic

### Wednesday:

**9:30 am** Men's Bible Discussion

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Central District Conference provided a dynamic annual session experience...on Zoom, for two consecutive years now. Last Saturday's reports were informative, efficient and engaging. Workshop options were relevant, and the keynote seminar was inspiring, challenging, and practical. Anti-racism efforts are being encouraged in various ways throughout CDC.

CDC is growing. Two new congregations were accepted: Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship (MI), and Keller Park Church (South Bend, IN). Keller Park Church is ministering effectively in their inner-city context. New "plants" are forming in North Carolina and Ohio.

I attended "Faith Formation," a workshop by Shanna Peachy Boshart, MC USA minister for Faith Formation. Boshart observed that the pandemic exacerbated unfortunate trends in Christian education which were already happening. She recommended a new formation resource for families: "Pause, Play, Read, Pray," a creative card deck, available at the MC USA website.

"Building Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive Congregations," by Betty Pries, from Credence & Company, Kitchener, Ontario, included helpful analysis of this challenging task. She addressed why it is so difficult to recognize and confront white privilege in congregations. She observed that congregations who move toward widening the tent through diversity and inclusion, tend to ignore Jesus in the process. Jesus is the center pole which is essential to hold up such an expanding tent. Pries is an adjunct professor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, in Elkhart, IN.

I suggest putting CDC in your calendar now, for June 2022. The specific date will be announced soon.

- Gary Martin

# *Congratulations Joe Matthews!*

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Congratulations to Joe Matthews & his mother Sarah Nichols! Joe was awarded his Eagle Scout rank in a Court of Honor on Sunday. We rejoice with Sarah in Joe's accomplishment and celebrate his hard work! Well done!

*Serving this Sunday*  
AT MCN

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**South Greeters:** Paul and Mary Ann Watkins

**West Greeter:** Adam Auguburger

**Welcome Table:** David Voegtlin

**Ushers:** John and Kay Reimer

*Mennonite Church USA*  
CONVENTION DELEGATES

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Convention (MennoCon21): MCN delegates are Jonah King and Alena Culbertson (in-person), Cindy Ropp AND DEVON TRACY (Virtual) The "hybrid" convention takes place July 6-10, in Cincinnati and online. Check the MC USA website for daily reports from MennoCon21: Home | Mennonite Church USA([mennoniteusa.org](http://mennoniteusa.org))



## *Our Members in Care Facilities*

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

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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



# Update on Office Changes

AT MCN

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We express our appreciation, and best wishes, to Devon Tracy, for serving MCN faithfully in the office over the last four months. Her last day is July 2. The Church Board decided to provide coverage for the office during the Summer, enabling the new Administration Commission to oversee hiring a long-term replacement. In the event the new Administration Commission is not in place in time, the Vision Team will take responsibility for the hiring process.

Charlotte Hedberg will cover most of Devon's tasks, working remotely through mid-August. Adam Augspurger will pick up accounts payable for the summer. We will announce regular "building is open" hours in the July 7 Midweek. To contact the church office, please e-mail, or call and leave a message. (309-452-6622). Both will be checked daily. 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 the office in advance, with 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.

## Condolences

ERMA STUTZMAN PASSED AWAY TUESDAY MORNING, AFTER SUFFERING A SERIOUS STROKE. ERMA AND JOHN HAD BEEN MCN MEMBERS, AND MOVED TO WATERLOO, ONTARIO, A FEW YEARS AGO. RUTH-ANN SHANTZ, HER NEXT OF KIN COMMENTED THAT AT THE MOMENT OF HER PASSING A ROBIN JUST OUTSIDE SANG LOUDLY AND WAS ANSWERED BY ANOTHER NEARBY ROBIN. WE PRAY FOR PEACE AND COMFORT FOR ERMA'S FAMILY. FUNERAL INFORMATION TO COME.



## 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

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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!

## *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

# *Fourth of July Celebration!*

AT MCN

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You are invited to a time of fellowship and fun to celebrate the 4th of July! It will be from 5pm to 8pm on the church lawn. Grills will be provided for those wanting to eat - please bring your own food and table service. Bring games, lawn chairs, friends, and family! You are welcome to stay later to watch fireworks or go to your favorite local spot!

## *A note from the Worship Committee*

REGARDING LIVESTREAMING

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Livestreaming worship services create additional challenges, including careful attention to copyright issues for all music, and the dilemma of sharing and prayer time. Congregants have provided differing feedback on sharing. For now, Worship Committee has attempted to find a solution in the middle. Sharing time will not be livestreamed (an explanation slide and music will be seen during (sharing)). The prayer will be livestreamed, with those praying asked to not include names. Sharing appears in the following Midweek. Those who will be watching online, are encouraged to send prayer concerns or joys via e-mail, to the church office, by Friday noon. This fall, the new Worship Commission, will consider this matter in the broader context of overseeing the entire worship service.

## *Staff Contact & Office Hours*

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

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Gary Martin, Transitional Pastor, 574- 238-5475, [gmartin5@comcast.net](mailto:gmartin5@comcast.net) ,In Normal: June 25-28, July 3-4, 10-15, 22-26

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](mailto: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](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com)