

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

This Sunday, our worship focus is responding joyfully to a generous God, through being intentional in sharing our material resources. Lyle Miller's sermon, *Managing Pigs for God*, is based on Acts 4:31-35. Lyle is a Stewardship Consultant with Everence. He formerly served on the Pastoral Team at Waterford Mennonite Church (Goshen, IN). In the after-worship session, Lyle will present "Generosity during COVID-19."

Those who are serving August 22:

South Greeters: Amy and Jeff Reiman

West Greeter: Ryan Miller

Welcome Table: Mary Jantze

Ushers: Adam Wiebenga and David Voegtlin

Looking Ahead:

To prepare for the worship experience on Aug. 29, please read Mark 7:1-23; James 1:17-27; and Deuteronomy 4:1-9.

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

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

Important Dates:

After Worship Session: "Generosity during COVID-19"

Commission Feedback due August 25th



This Week at MCN

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

Tuesday 24th:

8:00am Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

5:00pm Peace and Justice Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday 25th:

7:00pm Office Staff Hiring Meeting (Zoom)

5:00pm Outreach Committee (Zoom)

From Gary & Pat Martin

We appreciate your supportive prayers, cards, messages, and the beautiful plant, as we grieve the passing of Gary's brother on August 10. The obituary is available [here](#).

Devotionals

There are a few free copies of *The Upper Room* devotional guide for Jul-Aug and Sept-Oct on the entry table. Help yourself!

Office Coverage Update

Denise Hedberg is covering administrative office responsibilities remotely until an Office Administrator is in place. You can contact her at the same e-mail address and phone from the past: church@normalmennonite.org and 309-452-6622. The building is open, Monday-Friday, 2:00-5:00pm.

If you know of anyone interested in the full-time Office Administrator position, the job description and application form is available [here](#). Please direct any questions to Mary Dyck, Administration Commission Chair, at clairesmom23@gmail.com.

Voices Together Songfest

With sadness, the Welcome Home Task Group and Voices Together Committee together have decided to postpone the Sept. 26 event due to rising COVID-19 cases in the region. The event will be rescheduled in the future when we can safely joyfully worship and celebrate in song!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



Structure Update Announcements

VISION TEAM, BARRY WEAVER

We have identified members of the Pastoral Team Search Committee. This Committee will include Caleb Augspurger, Erin Ponnou-Delaffon, Andy Reeser, Leah Roeschley, Marcia Rossi and Marge Weaver. Shannon Neely will be the Vision Team member on the committee. We deeply appreciate their willingness to serve!

We began the process of forming an Interim Pastoral Team from within our congregation who will serve until a Permanent Team has been called. Some have agreed to serve, others are still considering this opportunity.

We agreed to the following schedule for marking the end of Gary's time with us:

September 26: Congregational celebration of our time of transition including heartfelt expressions of appreciation to those who played major roles!

October 3: Gary's last sermon and last Sunday. Congregational farewell!

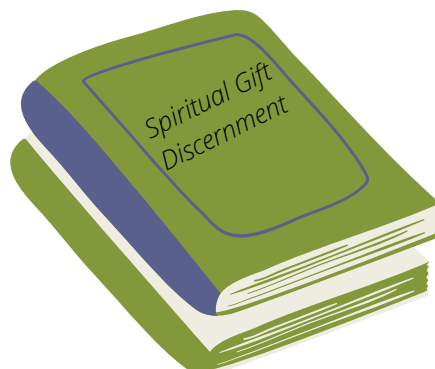
Worship Volunteer Opportunities

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

To aid in the efficiency/organization of the old committees/new commissions, we offer this survey for you to peruse and choose as many places where you are interested in serving. This will give the committees/commissions a better idea of whom to contact, if you have been serving in the few months we've been in the building or will be for the first time. Thank you so much! [Link to Survey](#).

New Small Groups

A new small group is forming this week: Please contact Gary Martin by Aug. 22, if you are interested in a group focused on helping each other discern passion, spiritual gifts, personal style, and calling. It will meet on Zoom, with the schedule determined by those who participate. It will likely meet 7-8 times. Your participation helps MCN accomplish its vision.



Update on Commission Candidates

Spring Neely is willing to serve on Discipling Commission, Andy Hedberg is willing to chair Outreach Commission, and Connie Satchwell is willing to serve on Community Life Commission. Please respond with your feedback for those candidates by next Wednesday, August 25th. Send it to Lynn Reha or Nancy Fisher. And please continue in prayer for the Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team as they listen to God's voice in filling these leadership roles. To read ministry descriptions, click [here](#).

Service Opportunity

Nerida Ellerton and Ken Clements need some help to move a few pieces of furniture. The pieces are not too large and would fit on a small truck. They live in Bloomington. Nerida and Ken are moving back to Australia and will be giving some of their furniture away—they would love to pass things on to someone in the Church family (or to someone known to be in need). Available now are a comfortable single lounge chair, and a round kitchen-style table (in need of a coat of paint or polyurethane). More furniture will be available within the next couple of months. A free-standing circular saw and a metal tool chest will also be available. Please call Nerida if you can help, and/or you would like some of the furniture they have.

Serving in Colombia

CLARA UNZICKER

Clara Unzicker was commissioned for a year of service and learning in Colombia last Sunday at Menno Haven. She writes:

"For those who were not at Menno Haven this past Sunday, I shared a bit about my upcoming year in Colombia with the Mennonite Central Committee's SALT (Serving and Learning Together) Program. This week, I am participating in a virtual orientation with the other SALT participants throughout the US and Canada. On Sunday, I will be travelling to Bogotá, Colombia, where I will be for the next 11 months. SALT is a program for young adults to serve in an international context, often living in Soacha, which is on the outskirts of Bogotá. Soacha is an area affected by extreme levels of poverty and gang violence, and Creciendo Juntos provides self-development activities, classes, and school assistance for children grades K-12. I would like to express my gratitude to those who donated to my fundraising for this upcoming year and for the prayers as well. I will be providing occasional updates through the Midweek. More information about MCC's work in Colombia-Ecuador can be found at this [link](#). If you click through the slides, you can read more about the partner organization, Creciendo Juntos, where I will be volunteering."

Relief for Haiti

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC)

You can provide relief in Haiti: The people of Haiti need our help. Families who have already suffered so much have been hit once again. The 7.2 magnitude earthquake killed at least 1,300 people and injured many more. Thousands are sleeping outside, with little food and no protection from the elements. With your help, we can reach the people most affected by this tragic event. Your gifts will provide emergency support. Donate today at [here](#).

Prayers for Afghanistan

We invite your prayers for the people of Afghanistan and for a peaceful conclusion to the current tension and fear

Prayer for Afghanistan

God of safe passage,
open the way.

God of hospitality,
prepare rooms to receive.

God of protection,
envelop those in danger.

God of peace,
remove the seed and tools of violence.

God of tears,
hold us in your embrace.

Oh, Afghanistan! May peace flow down like cooling rain.

Written by Kirstin De Mello, Program and Communications Coordinator for MCC U.S. Washington Office.



Financing Women Entrepreneurs



OUTREACH COMMISSION, ANDY HEDBERG

Free Symposium -- Financing Women Entrepreneurs in East Africa: Opportunities and Challenges
MEDA* is gathering a diverse group of experts to share their learnings on the:
importance of businesses integrating gender inclusion into their operations
implications of impact investing for Women-owned small and growing businesses in Kenya and Rwanda
dissemination of research findings on integration of gender lens in impact investing

Register for this free symposium [here](#). The symposium will be held on 15th and 16th September 2021, from September 15 - 16, 6:00 to 10:00 AM CDT (2:00 pm to 5:00 pm East Africa Time).

* [MEDA](#) – Mennonite Economic Development Associates – is an international economic development organization that creates business solutions to poverty.

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: August 19-23, 28-30; September 11-16, 18-20, 25-27; October 1-3

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

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

Bryan Oyer: custodian

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

