

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP

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

As God's prophet, Elijah repeatedly risked his life in being faithful to God's call. In 1 Kings 19:1-16, Elijah had had enough, and he let God know it by walking away. In John 6:60-71, many of Jesus' disciples had had enough of his call for total commitment, and let Jesus know it by walking away. *The Church on Offense*, invites us to rethink the church's purpose in God's Reign. Gary Martin is planning the service and bringing the message.

### Those who are serving August 8:

**South Greeters:** Roger and Linda Clemmons

**West Greeter:** Gail Fisher

**Welcome Table:** Shannon Neely

**Ushers:** Cal and Vivian Hubbard

### Looking ahead:

Next Sunday, August 15—annual Camp Menno Haven Sunday. Jane Roeschley's meditation, "Increasing the Strength of our Souls," is based on Psalm 138. Jaron Zehr will be baptized in the lake at the end of the service.

**There will be no service at the church building on August 15!**

Please Click for meeting, zoom, and other recordings

Please click for upcoming worship materials as they become available

## Important Dates:

Worship  
Sunday, 9:30 am

After Worship  
Session:

Vision Team & Spiritual Gift  
Discernment Team Update

Menno Haven  
Sunday:

The service on August 15  
will take place at camp  
Menno Haven in Tiskiwa

# After Worship

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This Sunday after worship, there will be a meeting with an update on the work of Vision Team and Spiritual Gift Discernment Team, and on the pastoral team and office staff search processes. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. This session will be recorded. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate on Zoom.



# This Week at MCN

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A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHURCH CALENDAR:  
THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE AT  
[NORMALMENNONITE.ORG](https://www.normalmennonite.org)

**Wednesday 4th:**

**7:00pm** Vision Team meeting

**Thursday 5th:**

**3:00pm** Spiritual Gift Discernment Team  
(Zoom)

**7:00pm** Office Staff Search Committee

# Worship

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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. Masks are required for all.

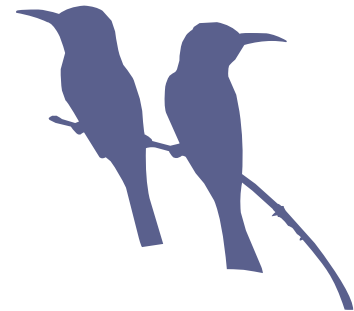
Please click [HERE](#) for detailed instructions about the livestream option.

Please click on the link below to connect to the worship livestream directly:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQdxexzd60K3Y8iLZ1aA6Yg>

# Milepost

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Milepost is on vacation this week.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries

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CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN



# Welcome Home Task Group

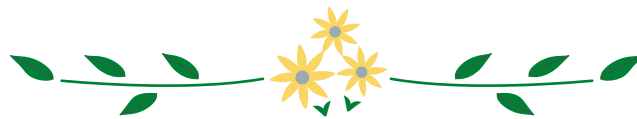
AT MCN

We are all disappointed with the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in McLean County, and in many areas of the nation. What can we do? We can express our lament to God that this scourge continues to cause suffering for so many, in so many ways. We can pray for protection for all, for healing for those who are ill, for an end to misinformation, and for protection and encouragement for health care professionals who are overwhelmed, again. As we follow the updated health protocols which are now essential, may the inconveniences we experience, keep us mindful of those who suffer, and those who grieve.

-Gary Martin

As a result of what is happening in McLean county as well as both state and CDC recommends, we ask that

- we all wear masks in the building,
- we all be more careful about social distancing,
- coffee not be served until further evaluation, and
- we greet each other in the parking lot.



The Welcome Home Task Group will continue to monitor local conditions and adjust recommendations as seems appropriate.

## New Small Group

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.



# A Good Word For All Committees

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Thanks for your faithful service through this past year, and especially for those who willingly extended beyond the end of your term, to accommodate the structure revisions. The new Commission will not be functioning for another month, so please continue to cover your responsibilities, until you hear from one of the Commissions.

## Welcome Back to Sunday School

AT MCN

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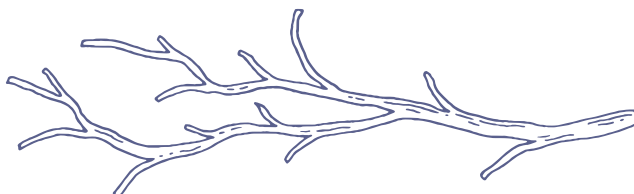
The Christian Education Committee is excited to resume Sunday school for kids ages PK-5th grade beginning Sunday, September 12. To help us prepare for students and implement Covid-19 mitigations, please respond to the survey at this link by **today, Wednesday, August 4:**

<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.



## From Spiritual Gift Discernment Committee

(SGDT)

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From Spiritual Gift Discernment Committee: Rick Harnish is recommended as a candidate to serve on Administration Commission. Please send your feedback regarding the recommendation, to Lynn Reha or Nancy Fisher, as soon as possible. A commission candidate appointment is not official until after the congregation has had an opportunity to provide feedback. The Commissions Ministry Description is available [here](#).

# Office Staff Search Update

AT MCN

Mary Dyck, in her role as Chair of Administration Commission, is chairing a hiring committee comprised of Rick Harnish (Administration Commission member), and Shannon Neely (representing Vision Team). Charlotte Hedberg continues to cover basic office responsibilities remotely. Her last day is August 13. After that, Denise Hedberg will cover these same responsibilities remotely, until a long-term staff person is in place. The hiring committee will have an update in the after-worship session this Sunday.



## Midwest Food Bank

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Friday, August 13, 2021 5:00-7:00pm

Please join us for a fun evening of service with your church family at Midwest Food Bank! Anyone 5 yrs and older is welcome. Due to the changing COVID-19 situation, masks will most likely be required. You can sign up at the link below!

[https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/opportunities/rMj1CGA92q?branch\\_match\\_id=903251295135960084](https://portal.goldenvolunteer.com/opportunities/rMj1CGA92q?branch_match_id=903251295135960084)

## 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!

## Church Retreat at Menno Haven

All are invited to our annual Sunday at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center on August 15! This is a beautiful setting in the woods and hills 90 minutes NE of BloNo. If you've not experienced Menno Haven, YOU are especially invited! All events are planned for outdoors, with shade provided. Masking is required for the self-serve buffet at lunch. Contact Marge Weaver for more information or if you have questions.

## 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.

# MCC Action Alert

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

August 3, 2021

Dear Mennonite Church of Normal,

July 27 marked the 68th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War armistice. The United States and North Korea have yet to sign a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War, and this is one of the root causes of tension and hostilities on the Korean Peninsula. This “forever war” keeps families separated, fuels arms races and risks military conflict.

Motivated by our work in North Korea and our partners in South Korea and the United States, MCC has advocated for many years to end the Korean War. Last year, more than 50 members of Congress voiced support for formally ending the war — but others remain unconvinced.



## [Take Action](#)



Ask your representative to co-sponsor H.R. 3446, the Peace on the Korean Peninsula Act, which calls for serious, urgent diplomacy in pursuit of a binding peace agreement to formally end the Korean War.

Faith reflection: “We cannot see our way forward. / The obstacles are too great, / And the task is too insurmountable. / Yet, you are the LORD of the impossible. / Make the impossible possible, we pray.” —From “A Psalm for Korea” by Joy Yoon.

Thank you,  
Kate Parsons  
Legislative Associate for International Affairs  
MCC U.S. Washington Office

## *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](mailto:gmartin5@comcast.net) , In Normal: Aug. 7-11; 20-23, 27-30

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](mailto:church@normalmennonite.org) or 309.452.6622

Bryan Oyer: custodian

Lauren Satchwell: Youth Ministry Leader; [satchwell.lauren@gmail.com](mailto:satchwell.lauren@gmail.com)