

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

The lectionary texts for Sunday, James 1:19-27, and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23, invite us to focus on *What's Inside?*, not appearances. Jesus' critics complained that some of his disciples didn't ritually wash their hands before eating. Jesus responded: focus on cleansing your heart, not your hands. Hypocrisy is one of two sins most frequently referenced in the Bible, and in Jesus' teaching. The other is materialism. Both lead us away from abundant living. The service was planned by Elsa Raab, and will be led by Ben Roeschley. Masks are required in the building. The service will be live streamed on Youtube at this [link](#).

Those who are serving August 29:

South Greeters: Kristen Satchwell and Lauren Satchwell

West Greeter: Terry Wiebenga

Welcome Table: Nancy Fisher

Ushers: Lotus Hershberger and Caleb Augspurger

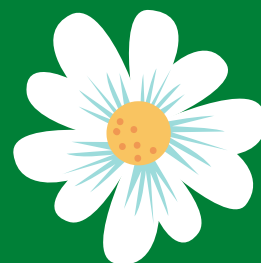
Looking Ahead:

Joe Culpepper's sermon on Sept. 5, based on 1 Peter 3:8-17 and Matthew 5:14-15, will consider some of the hazards of professing our faith in Jesus. "After worship" will take a Labor Day weekend break.

Important Dates:

After Worship
Session at 10:45:
"Church Types:
Traditional, Full
Service, Cell, Home
Base, or
Neighborhood"

Commission
Feedback due
September 1



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

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



**Mennonite
Church
of Normal**

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

This Week at MCN

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

Thursday 26th:

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study (Zoom)

7:00 pm Administration Committee (Zoom)

Wednesday 1st:

8:00 am Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

Mennonite World Conference

ASSEMBLY NEWS #6

You can read the latest newsletter with descriptions and updates about the Mennonite World Conference in 2022 [here](#).

Injustices to Palestinians

CENTRAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Injustices experienced by the Palestinian people is a focus of the current issue of Central District Conference's newsletter, [Focus](#). Read more and consider how you can take steps to support the Palestinian people.

Celebration and Lament

MENNONITE CHURCH USA

Debbie Bledsoe celebrates the positive experiences that she has had as a queer woman in Mennonite Church USA. She also laments the fact that not all queer folks have had such a positive experience with the church. Read her blog entry from June by clicking here: ["Celebration and Lament."](#)

After Worship

"Church Types: Traditional, Full Service, Cell, Home Base, or Neighborhood." Each congregation is unique, and yet a vast majority fall into one of five basic categories. MCN's vision establishes priorities for the next three years. But differences remain among us, in the type of church MCN is, or desires to become. All five types are legitimate. But they have significant differences in building use, pastoral priorities, worship style, community involvement, budget priorities, etc. If you cannot attend in person, you can participate on Zoom. Sessions will be recorded. We encourage those joining on Zoom to participate in the discussion.

Decentering Whiteness in Worship

MENNO MEDIA, MENNONITE CHURCH USA,
& MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA

MennoMedia, Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada recently partnered to create a two-part webinar that explored how to decenter whiteness, be more inclusive and promote anti-racism in worship, through the resources provided in Voices Together. Read more and find the links to the webinar in Katie Graber's blog, "Webinar to explore Voices Together, worship and anti-racism." Here's the link: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/webinar-vt-antiracism>.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Milepost 133

THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN EACH OF US A SPECIAL WAY OF SERVING OTHERS

By accepting alternative facts, congregations have missed the profound implications of these 13 words from Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:7. What are some of those alternative facts?

1. Pastors are really important, so their gifts are more special. (Something is either special, or not.)
2. 20% will do 80% of the work—that's universal. (Jesus would disagree.)
3. Some people are busier than others. (How is that relevant to Paul's statement? Whether busy or not, one still has a special way of serving others.)
4. "I'm not one to get upfront." (Most special ways of serving others, are behind the scenes.)

Can we abandon these alternative facts, and accept that Paul's statement is truth? If so, what are the implications?

1. Everyone is needed.
2. Each "special way" is different, but none is more valuable than another.
3. We need to help each other recognize and embrace our special way of serving others.
4. Our individual special ways of serving others, will shape the organizational structure, not vice-versa.
5. No one needs to over-function. When some do, they make it difficult for others to use their special way of serving others.

In the last two months, it is encouraging to see some of the above implications becoming reality. A number are saying yes to new calls. Among those who decline, Spiritual Gift Discernment Team often hears, "But this (something else) is my special way of serving others."

The timeline requires that we do the best we can at this point, with calling individuals to serve in the structure. It won't be perfect. Callings can be adjusted, because each year, all groups take time to evaluate how it's going. When Spiritual Gift Discernment Team has completed calling individuals to the Commissions (September), they will shift their focus to helping everyone discern their passion, spiritual gift and calling.

Please remember: Commissions serve as spiritual gift discernment teams in their respective areas. Those with passions and gifts to serve on a specific commission, will be more likely to know who to call to serve in all the ministries of that Commission. Commissions oversee and call. They do not do the ministry which many committees did in the past. Virtually "everyone" will eventually be called through a Commission, to serve in their special way, to accomplish important ministry at MCN.

Flexibility is a key characteristic of the structure. As individuals express their calls, adjustments are made in the structure, so each one can serve others in their special way.

-Gary Martin

Vision Team Update

BARRY WEAVER

- The Vision Team discussed plans to call two co-chairs of the Pastoral Team Search Committee (PTSC). Those individuals have been contacted and are considering the call.
- The Vision Team continued the process of identifying and calling individuals to serve on the Interim Pastoral Team. Two individuals have agreed to serve; another is considering the call.
- The Vision Team plans to host an after-worship session on September 19 to provide an overview of the long-term Pastoral Team ministry description. There will be time for Q&A. This session is intended to talk with the congregation about the roles and responsibilities of the Pastoral Team and how this model differs from the "lead pastor model."
- We have collected the new congregational structure documents for you to view. Contact the church office for them. Please take a few minutes to look at the Pastoral Team Ministry Description especially!

If Worship Commission is Calling You, do You answer?

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The joint Worship Committee / Worship Commission is offering you the opportunity to allow us to recognize and embrace the unique ways in which **you** can serve others in and before the worship services. We offer this simple survey for you to peruse and choose as many places where you are interested in serving. There are also "other" boxes for you to elaborate on how your individual way of serving can be made beneficial for all. This survey will give the committees/commissions a better idea of whom to contact. Whether you've been serving in the past months, or past years, or maybe you are now discerning you might feel called to serve in these ways, please fill this survey out. Or maybe you have served in years past but would like to serve in a different capacity now. Here's your chance to tell us! So far, **only one person** has filled it out, and I don't think that's representative of our congregation. There is no end date to this opportunity to serve before and during the services, because that's antithetical to the Spirit, but we really do want to know *now* who to call. Thank you so much! For survey, contact the church office.



New Small Group



A new small group is forming this week: Please contact Gary Martin by Aug. 29, 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.

Commission Candidates Update

Annette Harnish is willing to serve on Worship Commission. Please respond with your feedback for this candidate by next Wednesday, September 1 to Lynn Reha at or Nancy Fisher. 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](#).

Honey Sale

MENNONITE CHURCH OF NORMAL YOUTH GROUPS

David Voegtlin has generously donated his harvest of local honey to raise funds for the Mennonite Church of Normal Youth Groups. Thank you to all that have made purchases so far! We only have 7 of the 12 ounce honey bears available to purchase for \$7.

The honey was harvested locally this month and has been filtered.

10% of the proceeds will go to the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale.

If still available, stop by the table in the mezzanine to purchase Sunday August 29th or reserve one today by emailing Lauren Satchwell. Thank you!



SALT Support Group

CLARA UNZICKER

A support group is forming to support Clara Unzicker as she serves with SALT (Serving and Learning Together), which is part of Mennonite Central Committee, for the year. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Lauren Satchwell. Clara departed for Bogotá, Colombia last Sunday, and we invite you to join in prayer as she begins her first week in a new country.

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](#).



Expanding MCN's Reach



OUTREACH COMMISSION, ANDY HEDBERG

Flower Fiesta

HUNGRY WORLD FARM

Walk the gardens, cut some flowers, learn about harvesting and enjoying long-lasting cut flowers at Hungry World Farm on Thursday, August 26 between 6:30 and 7:30 at their farmstead. Mason jars and shears are supplied. Donations welcome. Details at this [link](#).

1983 Revisited: A Study of Annual Statements on Sexuality

BRETHREN MENNONITE COUNCIL FOR LGBT INTERESTS

Matt Rittle, pastor of the Arlington Church of the Brethren will share his insights and research concerning the the broader narrative about the church's relationship with its lgbtq members. Details about the webinar on Monday, August 30 at 7:00 pm can be found at this [link](#).

Women Entrepreneurs in East Africa

MENNONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES

Free Symposium -- Financing Women Entrepreneurs in East Africa: Opportunities and Challenges 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. 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). Details and registration information at this [link](#).

Voices Together Songfest

With sadness, the Welcome Home Task Group and Voices Together Committer 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!

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

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: August 28-29; September 11-16, 18-19, 25-26; October 2-3

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