

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

In Mark 9:30-37, Jesus again tells his disciples he will be put to death.

Again, they don't understand, but we're afraid to ask. Instead of talking among themselves in an attempt to figure it out, they argue about who deserves the MVD (most valuable disciple) award. Jesus' response: *welcome a child*, and you will receive the MVD award.

What did Jesus mean?

Holly & Randy Zehr are planning and leading this service.

The service will be live streamed on Youtube at this [link](#).

Those who are serving September 12:

South Greeters: John and Kay Reimer

West Greeter: Judy Hershberger

Welcome Table: Darvis King

Ushers: Janet Wilson and Nancy Fisher

Looking Ahead to September 26:

The worship service will include affirmation for all who have served at MCN during the last 18 months, and commissioning of Vision Team, Spiritual Gift Discernment Team, Pastoral Team Search Committee, and new Commissions.

Sermon texts: Numbers 11:4-29 and Mark 9:38-41.

Important Dates:

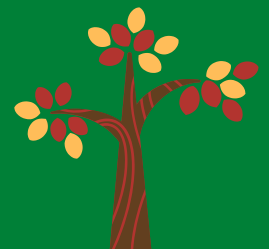
This Sunday

After Worship:
Pastoral Team Model
Orientation hosted
by the Vision Team

4:00 pm Mennonite
College Fair

October 3rd

Farewell for
Gary Martin



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

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

This Week at MCN

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

Wednesday, Sep 15th

5:30 pm Interim Pastoral Team

6:30 pm Youth Ministry

Thursday, Sep 16

6:30 am Next Man Bible Study

2:00 pm Women's Book Group

6:30 pm SALT Support Group

Sunday, Sep 19

4:00 pm Mennonite College Fair

Wednesday, Sep 22

9:30 am Wednesday Morning Book Group



After Worship

"Pastoral Team Ministry"

The Vision Team will host an after-worship session providing an overview of the long-term Pastoral Team ministry description. There will also be a Question and Answer time. This session is intended to orient the congregation to the roles and responsibilities of the Pastoral Team and to clarify how the pastoral team model differs from the lead pastor model. The event is in a hybrid format and accessible to those in the building and elsewhere.

Anabaptist Call to Action

Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's Outreach Commission event "Hot About Climate Change: An Anabaptist Call to Action." If you missed the event or want to view it again, email the church office for a link to the video.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Milepost 158

VIEWING THE JOURNEY

Hello MCN Church Family! I pray this week is going well for you and your families. On behalf of the Vision Team, I wanted to take a moment to share some of my thoughts in a Milepost about our church's transition journey.

It is hard to believe that we have been on this road of transition for over a year and a half. During this time, we have learned a great deal about ourselves and about our church. Every after service Zoom session and homework assignment Gary gave us moved us forward to the point where we have named a Pastoral Team Search Committee (PTSC) and they have had their first meeting.

Before I talk about what's to come, I want to take a moment and look back. I want to thank each of you for participating in the transition ministry process. This process under normal circumstances would be challenging enough on its own. But, when you add a pandemic to the mix, things only get more complicated. Phrases such as "Can you hear me?" and "Can you see my screen?" were added to discussions about our history, our vision, and our future goals. I also want to issue a heartfelt thanks to Gary and his leadership during this period. He was truly a God sent. His experience with leading transitions was critical to our success.

So, what's next? Well, the PTSC will meet with Doug Luginbill, our Conference Minister, to develop next steps. We, as a congregation, will proceed forward in our new structure. The Vision Team and the various commissions will begin their work. We will say goodbye to Gary and say hello to our Interim Pastoral Team. And, in the not too distant future, we will meet and affirm our brand new Pastoral Team!

As I wrap this Milepost up, there are two last things that I want to leave you with:

1. For all that we've done so far, the real work is about to begin. We've defined our vision and built our structure. However, without a plan or action, we will not move forward. As Antoine de Saint-Exupery said, "A goal without a plan is just a wish." In order to bring our vision for MCN to life, we will need everyone working together.
2. We, as a congregation, do not have to agree on everything at all times. During this entire transition, we have proven that we can find our way to common ground when we use our hearts, our minds, and our ears. I value diversity of thought and I believe that listening to different perspectives makes us stronger. Our differences reflect the talents that God has given each of us. I pray that we never forget that or take it for granted.

Thanks and I hope the rest of your week is blessed and awesome!

--Shannon Neely



Masks = Showing Love for Others = Discipleship

In light of rising cases of COVID in McLean County, we are reminding those who worship in person to *protect the health and well-being of our church family* on Sunday mornings by:

- **wearing a mask**
all people over the age of two at all times, including when speaking, sharing prayer requests, leading worship, and singing
- **distancing from members outside your household**
- **gathering in the parking lot for greetings and fellowship**
- **checking mask for proper fit before beginning to sing**

Questions about how to fit your mask? Here are instructions from the CDC.

Do wear a mask that



- Covers your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Fits snugly against the sides of your face.

How NOT to wear a mask



Around your neck



On your forehead



Under your nose



On your chin



Dangling from one ear



On your arm

John 13:34-35 "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. And you're to love one another the way I have loved you. this is how all will know that you're my disciples: that you truly love one another."

Vision Team Update

- With the previous naming of Lynette Miller, Lauren Satchwell, Holly Zehr, and Ron Ropp to the Interim Pastoral Team, their respective areas of focus at this time are:
 - Lynette Miller — Worship Commission and Community Life Commission
 - Holly Zehr — Discipling Commission and Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team (SGDT)
 - Lauren Satchwell — Administration Commission, Outreach Commission, and Vision Team
 - Ron Ropp — Continued focus on providing pastoral care to the congregation
- The Pastoral Team Search Committee held its first meeting on September 10. Gary provided an overview of the Pastoral Team model for the PTSC and members of the Vision Team who were able to attend.
- The Church Board and the Vision Team met on September 14 for a time of celebration and thanksgiving for the service of the Board and a blessing of the Vision Team and their ministry. The congregation will also participate in acknowledging this transition during our worship service on September 26.
- 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 and will be in a hybrid format for those in the building and those elsewhere. This session is intended to orient the congregation to the roles and responsibilities of the Pastoral Team and to clarify how the pastoral team model differs from the lead pastor model.

Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission (OC) is now in motion. OC's current priorities are to: draft a Philosophy of Ministry that will guide our work, complete an inventory that has already found more than 30 outreach connections with Church of Normal, and plan next steps.

We are very grateful to Phil Dick, Chairperson and Dorothy Zehr and Phyllis Versteegh, members of the former Outreach Committee, for their gracious help transitioning to the new Commission model. And, an especially big thank you to them for the generous outreach ministry they've built.

In service,

Andy Hedberg, Elsa Raab, Emmanuel Kasongo, Pam Hodel, and Lauren Satchwell

Mennonite Disaster Service

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) calls for volunteers with a heart for service and an attitude of flexibility. Volunteers are needed in Paradise, California; Jennings, Louisiana; McAllen, Texas as well as other work sites organized by local Units. MDS is seeking volunteers who, while eager to get back out there, must be ready to roll with both safety precautions and schedule changes as COVID-19 cases fluctuate. Call 1-800-241-8111 or go to www.mds.org to learn more.

As these projects prepare to open, MDS wants volunteers to know that we are working to make sure that they have a meaningful experience and that it is as safe as possible. If you would like more information, contact Gerry Schrock.



Those Serving in the New Structure

- Several Commissions have begun the process of calling many more to serve in the various ministries each Commission oversees. If you serve on an existing committee, thanks for continuing your ministry until a Commission member has contacted you. For the most part, Commissions are not doing what existing committees did; they are appointing teams or committees to accomplish that work. In a number of situations, that could mean re-appointing an existing committee.

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:
September 18-20, 25-27; October 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

Directory

THIS [LINK](#) WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR CURRENT DIRECTORY. IT LISTS EVERYONE WHO IS A MEMBER, ACTIVE NONMEMBER AND COLLEGE STUDENTS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE LISTED OR HAVE UPDATES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.