

# THE MIDWEEK



## WORSHIP

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

Both texts this Sunday invite us to widen our perspectives on how we relate to others beyond our own tribe. Numbers 11 and Mark 9:38-41 have a lot of complaining going on, some complaints are about those who don't "follow the rules." Jesus responds: *Whoever is not against us, is for us!* God's reign involves less focus on our tribe, and more coalition building. The worship service will include affirmation for all who have served at MCN in the last two years, and commissioning those who have been called as of now, to serve in the new structure. Many more will be called and commissioned in the next several months. Cindy Ropp is planning the service which will be led by Lauren Satchwell.

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

### Those who are serving September 26:

**South Greeters:** Marge & Barry Weaver

**West Greeter:** Gail Fisher

**Livestream Greeter:** Andy Hedberg

**Welcome Table:** Julie Musselman

**Ushers:** Jaron Zehr and Randy Zehr

### Looking Ahead: October 3

Pastor Gary's final sermon, *Who is in charge?* is from Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12. The service will include Communion and a farewell litany.

A fellowship time will follow.

## Important Dates:

### This Sunday

After Worship:  
Christian Education  
for Children and  
Youth

Fellowship Outside  
for Adults

### October 3rd

Farewell for  
Gary Martin



**Mennonite  
Church  
of Normal**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

# This Week at MCN

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

## Thursday, Sep 23

**6:30 am** Next Man Bible Study  
**2:00 pm** Women's Book Group  
**6:00 pm** Administration Commission  
**7:30 pm** Vision Team

## Sunday, Sep 26

**8:00 pm** Outreach Commission

## Monday, Sep 27

**11:00 am** Melika Hershberger Support Group  
**4:00 pm** Worship Commission

## Tuesday, Sep 28

**5:00 pm** Peace and Justice Committee

## Wednesday, Sep 29

**9:30 am** Wednesday Morn Book Group  
**5:30 pm** Interim Pastoral Team

# Pastor Gary Reception

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October 3 will be Pastor Gary's last Sunday with our congregation. Following the worship service, we will have opportunities to thank him personally during a short program and an outdoor reception. His wife, Pat, will join us also. We invite you to bring a card or note to share your well wishes.

# After Worship

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Christian Education for children and youth and fellowship for adults will take place after the Sunday service for those attending in person.

# Pastoral Team Ministry

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Thank you to all who participated in last Sunday's presentation and discussion about the "Pastoral Team Ministry." If you missed the event or want to view it again, ask the church office for a link.

# Livestream Greeters & Liason Worshipping Remotely

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New this week is a dedicated greeter and helper for remote worship. Andy Hedberg is serving in both roles this Sunday, the 26th. As remote liason, he will have his phone handy to answer calls and texts about your remote worship questions, such as "Why am I not hearing anything?", "Where is the link for the after worship event?", "How do I chat a hello?", or anything else.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

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## BEFORE AND AFTER

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Would that all the LORD's people were prophets,  
and that the LORD would put his Spirit on them! Numbers 11:28

Numbers 11 opens with the Children of Israel longing to return to Egypt, where they had all the fish they could eat, along with leeks, melons and cucumbers. Plain manna was getting old. God gets upset at their complaints. Moses takes God's anger personally, and gets upset at God, saying "Don't blame me. I didn't conceive these people—you did."

God says to Moses: delegate; call seventy leaders to help you. God took some of the Spirit from Moses, and distributed it among the seventy. Sound familiar?

The seventy gather in the tent of meeting, and all prophesy. Then several others see two leaders who were prophesying in the camp, not in the tent. They complain to Moses: "They aren't following the rules." Moses replies, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!" This came to pass at Pentecost.

As of today, 32 have been called to various roles in the new structure. By the time Commissions call additional persons to specific ministry roles, you'll have 70+ sharing all of the ministry responsibilities at MCN.

It is encouraging to see the energy and commitment to the new vision, in all of the new groups which are functioning: Vision Team, Spiritual Gift Discernment Team, Pastoral Team Search Committee, Interim Pastoral Team, and Administration and Outreach Commissions. The remaining three Commissions will have first meetings in the next week or two.

Challenging tasks are being addressed. Highlights of the new groups' work, are reported in each Midweek. Many structure related documents, including ministry descriptions are available at this [link](#). Thanks to all of the existing committees who continue their ministries, until you are contacted by a new Commission.

-Gary Martin

# Financial Stewardship Committee

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## Update on Mennonite Church of Normal Finances

### August

August Income: \$29,130.85  
August Expenses: \$25,471.33  
For August: Income - Expenses = \$3,659.52

### Status at the End of August

Total income: \$226,650.80  
Total expenses: \$238,835.34  
Total income - expenses = **-\$12,184.54**

Two other notes:

- At the end of August we are 2/3, 66.6%, of the way through the year. Income is 57% and expenses are 60% of the total spending plan of \$399,455.
- In July we received gifts from 17 units electronically and from 33 units by envelope.

**Thank you for your continued support of the Spending Plan.**

# Outreach Commission

## Beyond Mennonite Church of Normal

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### Invitation to All Solar Enthusiasts

You are invited to attend brief Sukkot/Shabbat services and the dedication of the Moses Montefiore Temple solar roof on Friday, September 24th outside in the Temple courtyard. Larissa Armstrong, assistant director of the Ecology Action Center, will speak briefly and answer questions about solar projects for congregations. Light refreshments will be served. The holiday of Sukkot features being outside in special booths called Sukkahs to celebrate the abundance of the fall harvest. Gathering will be at 5:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact Myra Gordon, [enviromyra@comcast.net](mailto:enviromyra@comcast.net).



### Hungry World Farm

There are several events happening at the Hungry World Farm: Harvest Festival for the whole family, Composting Class, and a Fall Work Day. For more information, go to this [link](#).

## *Interim Pastoral Team*

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The Interim Pastoral Team (Holly Zehr, Lynette Miller, Lauren Satchwell, Ron Ropp, and Gary Martin) has met twice. Highlights of the Meetings:

- Proposed Commission assignments to Vision Team
- Discerned October worship service theme and scheduled preachers
- Received Outreach and Administration Commission highlights from Lauren
- Reviewed affirmation and commissioning litanies for Sept. 26 worship
- Discussed small group ministry

## *Pastoral Team Search Committee*

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The Pastoral Team Search Committee held their first meeting on Friday, September 10. Gary gave an overview of PTSC responsibilities and reviewed the church discernment process that led to the decision to call a team of pastors. Monday evening, September 13, we zoomed with Doug Luginbill, Central District Conference Minister who guided us through the clearly outlined phases of searching for a pastoral team. There are no shortcuts. Confidentiality is imperative. Communication is essential. We will do our best to keep the congregation informed by posting twice each month in the Midweek.

## *New Structure Documents*

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New structure documents, including ministry descriptions, vision statement with commission assignments for the goals, structure changes, and a list of individuals called to serve in the new structure, are available by asking the church office.

## *Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center*

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Menno Haven's Fall Work Day on October 2 is coming just around the corner and you are invited to participate. This is a family friendly event with a little something for everyone. If you like to be outside, you can spend the day splitting and moving firewood, clearing trails, or cleaning up lawns and/or flower beds. If being inside is more your thing, you can help make lunch, do deep cleaning in the kitchen, or install new ceiling tiles in Lakeview Lodge now that the metal roof has been installed. For more information, go to this [link](#).

## *Update from Melika Hershberger*

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Thank you for the kind notes, messages of support and your prayers for me as I have begun seminary. Things are going well, and I am finding my studies challenging and exciting.

## *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

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# *Our Members in Care Facilities*

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

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## *Staff Contact and Building Open Hours*

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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:  
September 25-29; 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](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)

## *Directory*