

THE MIDWEEK



WORSHIP

THIS SUNDAY 9:30 A.M.

"Wisdom shouts! Are we listening?" Who is Wisdom? Why is she shouting in the streets? Proverbs 1:20-33 is the Old Testament lectionary reading for this Sunday. Wisdom concludes this poem:

"but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster." What is she shouting to those who listen today? Gary Martin is planning and leading the service, which includes a ministry moment with Lynn Reha and Mary Dyck.

Masks are required in the building.

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

Those who are serving September 12:

South Greeters: Darvis and Shelly King Family

West Greeter: Jenell Ulrich

Welcome Table: Gail Fisher

Ushers: Stephanie and Mike Company

Looking Ahead to September 19:

Mark 9:30-37 -- Want to be great in the Kingdom?
Welcome a child in Jesus' name!

Important Dates:

This Sunday After Worship:

Hot About Climate
Change: An
Anabaptist Call to
Action

Youth Group at the
Proving Ground
11:00am – 2:00 pm

PreK-5th Grade Ice
Cream Social

Sept 19th After Worship:

Vision Team
Overview and
Discussion:
Pastoral Team

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 8th:

5:30 pm Interim Pastoral Team

7:00 pm Fellowship Committee

7:30 pm Vision Team

Thursday, Sep 9th:

5:00 pm Outreach Committee

7:00 pm Administration Commission

Friday, Sep 10th:

8:30 am Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

6:00 pm Pastoral Team Search Committee

Saturday, Sep 11th

8:30 am Office Administration Interviews

Sunday, Sep 12

8:00 pm Outreach Commission

Tuesday, Sep 14:

6:30 pm Church Board and Vision Team

Wednesday, Sep 15:

9:30 am Wednesday Morn Book Group

6:30 pm Pastoral Council

Melika & Ross Hershberger

SUPPORT GROUP

Melika Hershberger has begun her studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary for pastoral ministry. This is a major undertaking for both Melika and Ross. We are in the process of establishing a support group for them during this study time. If you are interested in being part of this effort please contact Elfriede Massier.

After Worship

Hot about climate change: An Anabaptist Call to Action

How in the world do bicycling, Mennonite Central Committee, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, resilience, racism, and Mennonite Church of Normal connect? Join the Outreach Commission for this after service presentation and conversation on Sunday, September 12 to find out. This will be a hybrid session with on-line and in-person options to participate. If attending via Zoom, click [here](#) to join after the worship service. Here are some pre-session reading options:

Climate Change resources

- [Mennonite Central Committee](#) (MCC)
- [The latest IPCC report explained in 7.5 minutes](#) - YouTube
- [Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions](#) - a collaborative initiative of Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College, and Mennonite Central Committee
- [Mennonite Economic Development Associates](#) (MEDA)
- [Mennonite Church USA](#)
- [Mennonite Creation Care Network](#)
- [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) - sixth assessment report
- [The Three Most Important Graphs in Climate Change](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

CELEBRATING LIFE'S MOMENTS AT MCN

Milepost 157

IN THE PANDEMIC'S WAKE

Ever been peacefully fishing in a small boat, only to be nearly capsized by the wake of a large boat speeding by? The pandemic has rocked all of us. But this boat keeps circling.

We're all tired of being buffeted by the obvious components of this never-ending wake: overwhelmed health care system and workers, restrictions, inability to make plans for the future, impact on education, separation from loved ones, fear for our own health, and the health of our loved ones, disruption of the supply chain for numerous products, etc. But we can't get out of our boat. We have to keep riding the waves.

There are ripple effects beyond the obvious, which we struggle to even grasp. We keep hearing about the mental health impact on all of us. How is it changing the very fabric of our society? Is it weakening an already broken political system? Is it draining us of energy to deal with catastrophic issues: climate change, structural racism, violence, hunger, homelessness, etc.

If we could consult with many figures in Scripture or Church History, they would say to us: "We've seen this movie before. God is worthy of our trust, and will always be with you."

MCN is a seaworthy vessel these days, prepared for the pandemic's wakes, no matter how long they continue. Enough already have, or will respond with an adventuresome spirit to the all-hands-on-deck call, to work together on new or existing teams. Some need more time. Still others are in healing mode. Let's extend grace freely to everyone in these uncharted waters.

Peter and Paul offer wise counsel for such times, when we can't understand all the nuances of how the pandemic has affected each one of us: *Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sin (1 Peter 4:8). Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other (Ephesians 4:2).*

-Gary Martin

Vision Team Update

- We have identified the members of the Interim Pastoral Team: Lynette Miller, Lauren Satchwell, Holly Zehr, and Ron Ropp. Lynette, Lauren, and Holly will primarily provide support and resources for the five commissions, Vision Team, and Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Ron will continue to focus on providing pastoral care to the congregation. Pastor Gary will work with this team until his departure. Regarding those named to the Interim Pastoral Team, please send any feedback to Barry Weaver.
- With the formation of the Pastoral Team Search Committee, and identification of someone to lead and convene the meetings (Marcia Rossi), the PTSC will have its first meeting Friday, September 10. This first meeting will provide the members of the PTSC comprehensive orientation to the Pastoral Team concept and how that impacts the pastoral search process.
- 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 educate the congregation on the roles and responsibilities of the Pastoral Team and how the pastoral team model differs from the lead pastor model.

Those Serving in the New Structure

A list of those serving in the new structure is available. Several Commissions have begun the process of calling many more to serve in the various ministries each Commission oversees.

Spiritual Gift Discernment Team

The Spiritual Gift Discernment Team announced Sunday that David Voegtlin is a candidate for the Discipling Commission. Please send you feed back to Nancy Fisher, Lynn Reha, or Shelly King by September 12.

You're Invited to an Ice Cream Social



Hosted By: CE Committee

When: 9/12/21 after service

Where: Check-in at the
Pre-K-K Classroom and then we'll
head outside!

*All children from pre-k
through 5th grade are invited
to join us for ice cream, yard
games & a bunch of other fun
activities as we kick off fall
Sunday school at MCN!*

Color of Compromise Webinar

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC)

Join Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) for the third MCC U.S. Color of Compromise webinar featuring Sandra Maria Van Opstal on September 28th at 1:00 p.m. EDT. From the depth of her experience ministering to the Hispanic and Latino community, writer, speaker and co-founder of Chasing Justice movement, Sandra Maria Van Opstal will speak about the impact of the church's complicity in racism on the Hispanic and Latino community here in the U.S. Register for the free webinar [here](#). For more information on past webinars in the series, visit mcc.org/color-of-compromise.

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 11-16, 18-20, 25-27; 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

Directory

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE LISTED OR HAVE UPDATES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.